

Sandiganbayan orders arrest of Dichaves

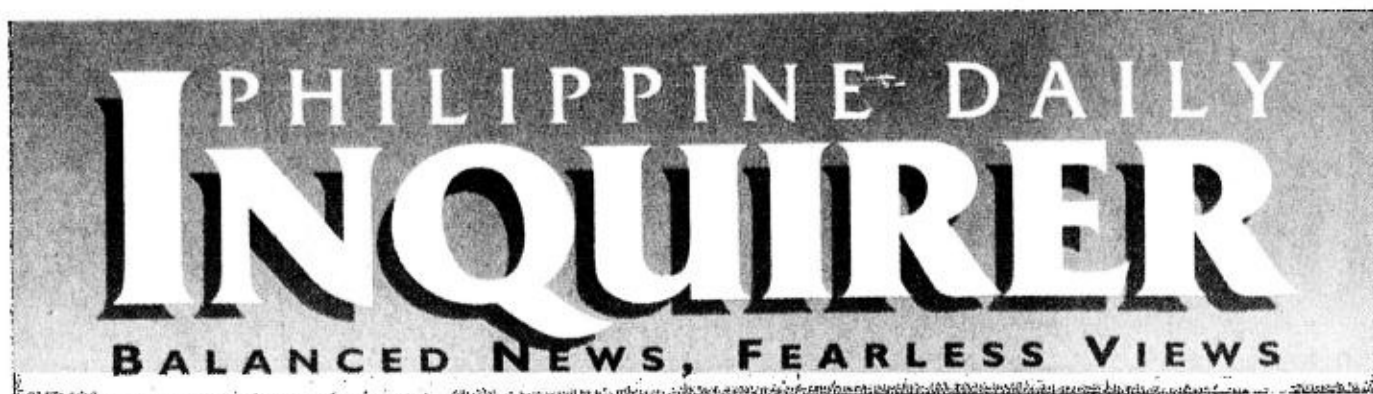
STORY ON PAGE A2

GMA, Reyes not singing same song on US troops

By Tony Bergonia
Assistant National Editor

OTTAWA—President Macapagal-Arroyo said here her decision to allow the entry of US troops into Mindanao had nothing to do with efforts to rescue an American couple seized by Abu Sayyaf bandits nearly a year ago.

"The reason is not the freeing of the
GMA/A12



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Thursday, January 31, 2002 ★ 36 pages / 4 sections / vol. 17 / no. 54 P15

Bush pledges to wipe out RP terror cells

'If gov'ts don't act, America will'

WASHINGTON—Outlining his post-Afghanistan battle plans, US President George W. Bush vowed Tuesday night to unearth "a terrorist underworld" of training camps in a dozen countries, including the Philippines.

In his first State of the Union address, Bush said tens of thousands of terrorists—"ticking time bombs set to go off"—still threatened the United States and he promised to stalk them across the globe.

"While the most visible military action is in Afghanistan, America is acting elsewhere. We now have troops in the Philippines, helping to train that country's armed forces to go after terrorist cells that have executed an American and still hold hostages," he said.

Bush was referring to the Abu Sayyaf group, which according to Washington, has been trained and funded by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

Preparations are in full swing for the formal launch of an RP-US training exercise against the Abu Sayyaf bandits who beheaded an American last year. The group is holding an American missionary couple and a Filipino nurse in Basilan.

About 140 American soldiers had already arrived in the Philippines, the vanguard of a US force that would eventually involve up to 660 troops.

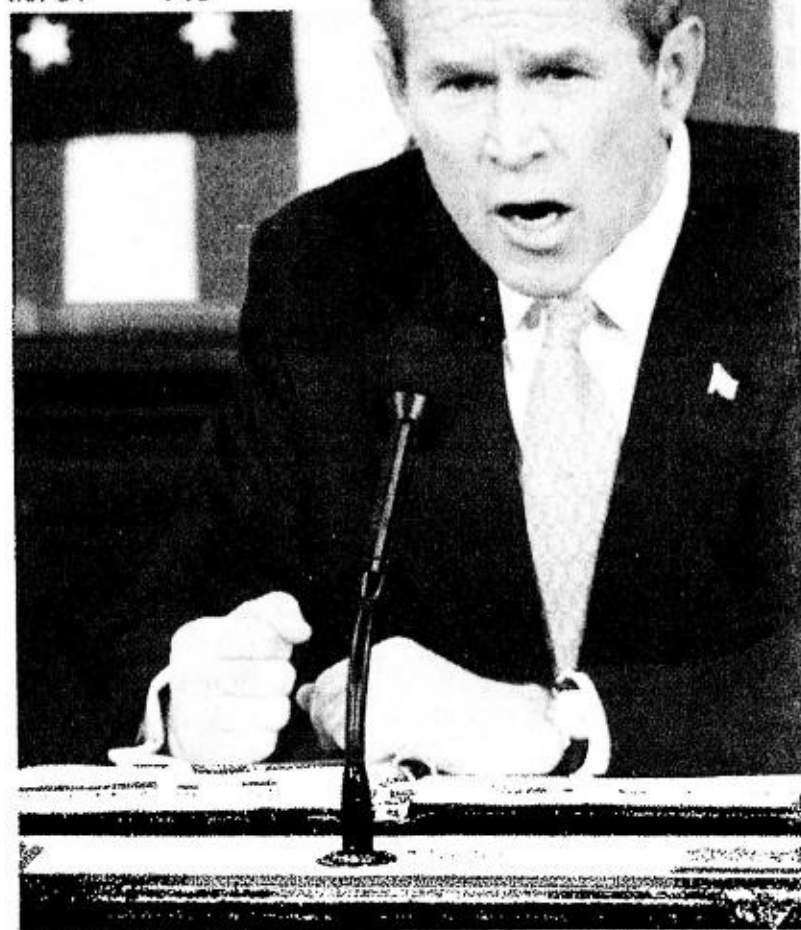
The campaign against the Abu Sayyaf will see one of the biggest deployments of American troops since the US-led war on terrorism was launched in Afghanistan on Oct. 7.

"These enemies view the entire world

as a battlefield, and we must pursue them wherever they are," Bush said in his address to the US Congress, watched by millions of Americans who have endorsed his wartime leadership with astronomical approval ratings.

"So long as training camps operate, so long as nations harbor terrorists, freedom is at risk—and America and our allies must not, and will not, allow

BUSH/A12



"LIKE ticking time bombs," tens of thousands of Bin Laden's followers are spread around the world said Bush, who promised to stalk them. REUTERS

Bush jab at RP as terrorist haven alarms Filipino leaders

By Norman Bordadora
and Juliet L. Javellana

A FORMER president, two Cabinet officials, several legislators and a Moro fighter expressed alarm at US President George W. Bush's declaration that the Philippines was one of 12 countries harboring international terrorists and that "if they do not act, America will."

"His speech was not well researched by his ghost writers," former President Fidel Ramos said of Bush.

Ramos said that the Philippines had an impressive track record in fighting terrorism. He cited the government's success in preventing major terrorist attacks such as the plot to assassinate Pope John Paul II and former US President Bill Clinton.

"He's probably overstating the problem here in the Philippines. His representatives should properly inform him," Ramos said after Bush delivered his State of the Union Address.

Two Cabinet ministers also chafed at Bush's warning.

"It's clear in my mind that one president of a friendly country does not threaten another friendly country," Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said.

"We don't depend on what the Americans claims to be necessary. We do seek assistance from them in case of need, but that doesn't mean they will run the foreign policy of our country."

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said
BUSHJAB/A12



POINT men for President Macapagal's decision to bring in US troops defend the done deal at the House. Front row, Justice Secretary Perez, National Security Adviser Golez; behind are Defense Secretary Reyes and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Villanueva.

War games on today but rules still unsigned

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE RP-US Balikatan 02-1 formally opens today in Zamboanga City even if the terms of reference (TOR) governing the conduct of the controversial military exercise have not yet been signed.

Members of the House expressed disbelief at this admission made by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio

Villanueva during a five-hour joint hearing yesterday of the committees on foreign affairs and national defense.

Not even a "walk-through" conducted by Brig. Gen. Emmanuel R. Teodosio, Philippine co-director of the Balikatan, convinced the critics.

Villanueva, however, said the Balikatan opening rites would push through today, a day behind the original

schedule.

He said the "ceremony" would "kick off the succeeding activities and preparations for Phase 2."

Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada Jr., chair of the foreign affairs committee, proposed that the military exercise be postponed until after President Macapagal-Arroyo and US President George W. Bush had

signed the TOR.

But Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr., chair of the defense committee, expressed support for the Balikatan.

Under questioning by Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, Villanueva said what was available was only a "final draft" of the TOR, which he said was
WAR/A11

Inquirer Libre gets 2 awards for excellence

ONLY two months old, INQUIRER Libre received not one but two awards for excellence in "strategic management process" and for the excellence of the publication itself as a mass communication tool.

Called the Gold Quill, the awards were given for the first time here by the International Association of Business Communicators, a San Francisco-based association of communication professionals.

Distributed free from Monday to Friday in selected MRT and LRT stations, INQUIRER Libre was envisioned by the INQUIRER management to fill the needs of readers and advertisers not met by traditional papers, to develop a reading habit among the occasional and non-readers and to provide basic information to commuters at no cost to them.

The free paper is the hottest trend in the world media industry today. INQUIRER Libre is the country's first free newspaper.
INQUIRER/A12



THE GOLDEN QUILL awards are received by INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto (center) and president, Sandy Prieto-Romualdez. At right is Bish Mukherjee, president of IABC-Australia-NSW.

Protestant group slams Balikatan

By Vincent Cabreja
and Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—In direct contrast to the stand of the Catholic bishops, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) has denounced the RP-US Balikatan 02-1 and demanded that President Macapagal-Arroyo explain the implications on East Asian politics of the US military presence in the country.

PR donors media shy; Palace zaps info czar

By Carlito Pablo

THE INTERNATIONAL public relations firm hired by Malacañang has been contracted since last year. And it was paid for by businessmen who prefer to remain anonymous "at this time."

But even as the Macapagal administration is on an image-polishing spree, it had stripped off the sweeping powers conferred on its so-called information czar, Press Undersecretary Manuel Sanchez.

And for the third straight day, Press Secretary Noel Cabrera has yet to know who chipped in to bankroll the US-based PR firm, Burson and Marsteller (B&M) and how much the government put in as its
PRA12



Marcos' 'son' tries to withdraw \$90B from bank

HONG KONG—Here comes yet another person claiming to be a son of the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

Tiburcio Villamor Tan Marcos, 53, faced a court here on Tuesday to deny fraud charges involving his attempt to withdraw \$90 billion from a "secret account" in a Hong Kong bank that he said his "father" had left for him.

Marcos, a property developer, denied charges that he had used a copy of a
MARCOS/A11

2 more party-list groups make it

By M. Ubac

THE SUPREME Court yesterday removed all legal obstacles for the proclamation of two more party-list groups as winners in the elections in May last year.

The high court ordered the Commission on Elections to immediately proclaim the party-list groups Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec) and the Citizens Battle Against Corruption (Cibac) and allow their representatives to sit in Congress.

The SC order will allow Emmanuel Villanueva, son of Evangelist Bro. Eddie Villanueva of the Jesus is Lord Fellowship, to sit as Cibac representative in Congress.

While two representatives of Apec, whose membership includes members of the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperative Inc. (Philrea), will also assume their congressional posts.

In a five-page full court resolution written by Clerk of Court Luzviminda D. Puno, the SC upheld the victory of Cibac and Apec because the two had each garnered more than two percent of the total votes cast for party-list elections.

One seat each

Based on Comelec Party-List Canvass Report No. 26, Apec obtained 5.3 percent (equal to two seats), while Cibac garnered 2.1 percent (equal to one seat).

Under the party-list law, groups that obtained two percent of the total votes cast for party-list shall be allowed to occupy seats in Congress.

The SC decision brings to five the number of party-list groups that are currently occupying seats in Congress. The other groups are Bayan Muna, Citizens Action Party (Akabayon) and Luzon Farmers Party (Butil).

In upholding the victory of Apec and Cibac, the SC partially lifted the May 4, 2001 temporary restraining order prohibiting Comelec from proclaiming any winner in the party-list elections.

Nothing wrong with bonds bonanza-Palace

By Carlito Pablo and Cynthia D. Balana

MALACANANG is standing by a non-government organization chaired by the sister of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, which reportedly made a P1.4 billion profit from a government bond issuance.

Press Secretary Noel Cabrera said there was nothing irregular in the transaction involving the Caucus of Development NGOs (Code-NGO) headed by Ma. Socorro Camacho Reyes, the finance secretary's sister.

"Everything was on the level," Cabrera said of the bond issuance, which the Code-NGO is alleged to have lobbied for and which is now the subject of a Senate investigation.

Cabrera said the Senate investigation would clarify the issue and "hopefully clear the organizations and individuals involved."

Code-NGO, which played a key role in Edsa II people power uprising that put President Macapagal-Arroyo in power, conceptualized the issuance of Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates, or Peace Bonds, to raise money for its anti-poverty activities.

P1.4-B killing

The Code-NGO reportedly made a profit of P1.4 billion from the issuance of the 10-year Treasury zero-coupon notes that had been bid out for P10 billion last October.

Opposition Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, who authored the Senate resolution calling for the

investigation, claimed that the bond float was already a "done deal" six months before their actual auction so that the bidding was just "one, big zarzuela."

The committee, chaired by Sen. John Osmeña, will hold a second hearing on Feb. 5. Osmeña said the committee would subpoena the officials of all government agencies involved in the bond float.

He said it would also look into the possible tax liability of Code-NGO as it had created the Peace Foundation to receive the P1.4 billion

windfall.

The senator is not buying Camacho's excuse that he had inhibited himself from all discussions of the Code-NGO transaction.

As finance secretary, Camacho has control and supervision over the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Insurance Commissioner and the SEC, Osmeña said.

"What he should have done was to go on

leave because all these assistants are under his direct supervision and control. He cannot get away with it," he said.

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A figurehead at DFA

TENSIONS have charged the relationship between Vice President Teofisto Guingona, the secretary of foreign affairs, and former Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo, since the beginning of the Macapagal presidency over inputs in and influence over foreign policy. These tensions have risen to a point where it is now perceived in the diplomatic corps that there are two channels of foreign policy inputs: one the official DFA on Roxas Boulevard, and the other, the unofficial foreign office on Sikatuna Street, where Romulo holds office. The latter is also known as the "shadow DFA."

This friction stems from: (1) the activist inclinations of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as a foreign policy initiator; and (2) her lack of confidence in Guingona, who is a neophyte in the DFA.

Even during the hectic days when Ms Macapagal was seeking foreign recognition for the legitimacy of her assumption of the presidency, she relied on Romulo as a conduit for contacts with foreign governments. Shortly after she sworn into office, she named Romulo as special presidential adviser on foreign affairs and special envoy on international competitiveness, in which capacity he has been traveling around the world to burnish the image of the administration. Indeed, Romulo formed her advance party for her trips to the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States. Because she has more confidence in the judgments of Romulo, she has sought his advice on a wide range of subjects, from policy to negotiations to appointments to ambassadorial posts.

Guingona, while feeling his way around the DFA where he was wandering like a lost child in the woods, resents his having been bypassed by the President on matters involving his jurisdiction. The resentment came to a point where Guingona called the attention of the President to the fact that during the Marcos administration, then Foreign Secretary Carlos Romulo, Roberto's father, resented the interference of Ambassador Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez, the brother of Imelda Romualdez Marcos.

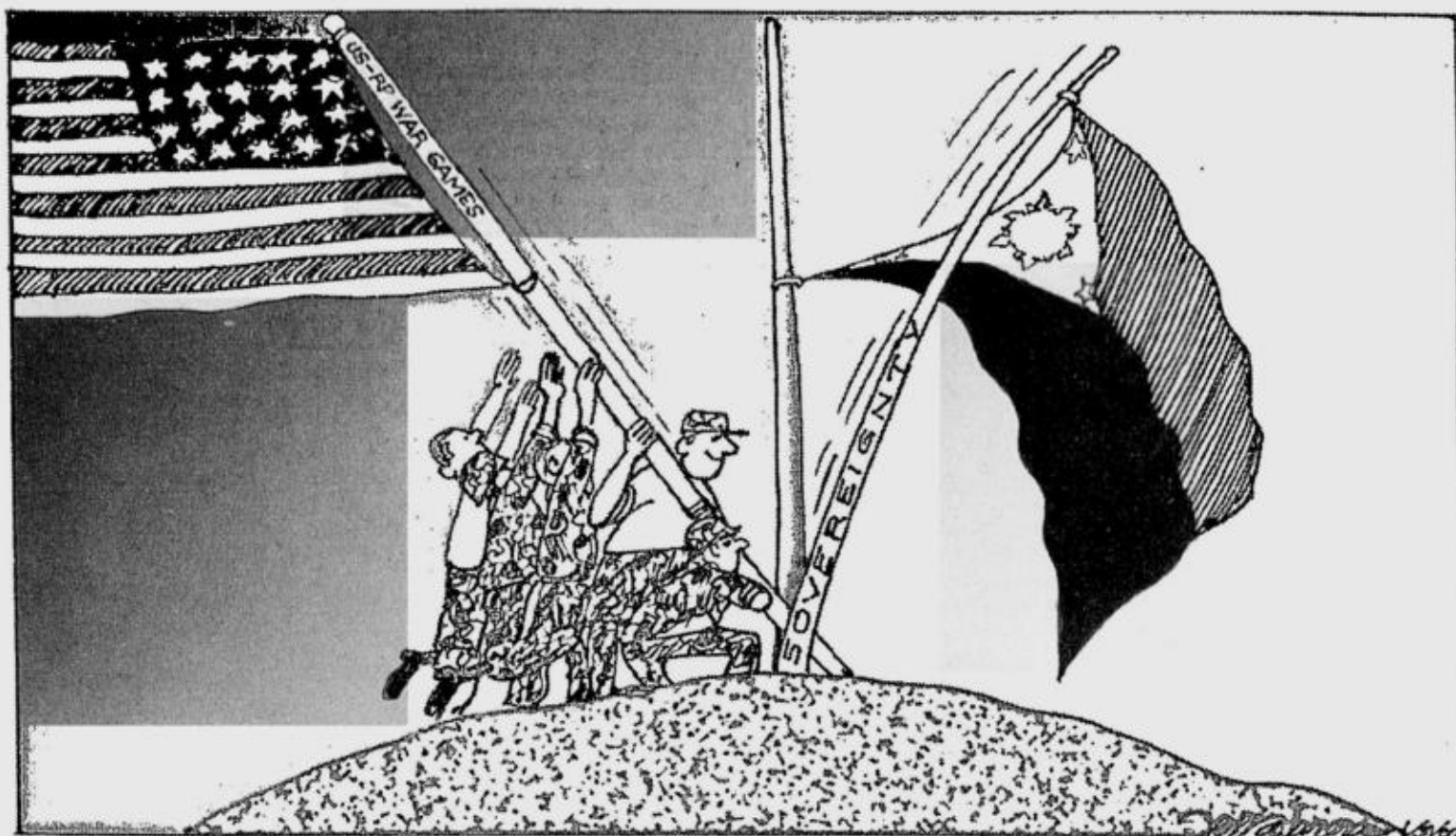
Guingona has every reason to complain about his being bypassed, but the President has her own strong reasons for relying for advice more on Romulo than on Guingona. It is true that Romulo has not given advice without being asked. Also true is that he has declined an invitation to return to the Cabinet as foreign secretary.

But by her reliance on Romulo, the President has undermined the institutional function of the DFA. And Romulo thus exercises influence on foreign policy without accountability and responsibility.

The fact that diplomats, if they wish to convey messages to the President, go to Romulo rather than to Guingona stems from their perception of effective channels through which to communicate with the President—and these channels radiate from Sikatuna or the Makati DFA. The other consequence of this dual arrangement is that career foreign service officials gravitate to Romulo in seeking promotion or diplomatic postings, ignoring Guingona and in the process further undermining his position vis-à-vis the President.

In the Cabinet, Guingona sits on the right of the President, not by virtue of his being Vice President but because of the seniority given to the foreign secretary in the hierarchy. But Guingona's influence in the Cabinet has been further eroded by his contradictory position relative to the deployment of American troops in the joint-military exercises now under way in Zamboanga and Basilan.

Given his fundamental policy differences with the President and the fact that he has been frequently bypassed, it is a wonder why Guingona has stayed in the DFA to bear such indignities and humiliation. The best way to restore the weight of the DFA in foreign policy decision-making and implementation is for him to resign and for the President to appoint Romulo to the Cabinet, where he can be made responsible and accountable for his inputs. At the moment, Romulo hides behind the skirt of the President who takes the flak over policy. If this is not corrected, we will continue to have a figurehead foreign secretary.



A miscarriage of justice that will make you cry

THE OMBUDSMAN, the prosecutor for the people, deliberately manipulating a case so that the State will lose its case against a criminal syndicate who stole billions of pesos in taxes? Shocking and revolting—if it is true.

But what about the Supreme Court, the court of last resort, itself committing an injustice against a citizen in an erroneous decision? And when the error was pointed out, the whole tribunal refused to correct the error. On the contrary, it fined the victim P5,000, payable within 10 days, or imprisonment of five days if the fine was not paid within that period.

This case will make you cry and make you wonder whether our courts of justice, and especially the Supreme Court and its justices, really dispense justice.

Since 1985, businessman Damaso S. Flores has been locked in a legal battle with Rolando R. Ligon over the possession of the Parañaque Cockpit Stadium. Flores won that case in the trial court and in the Court of Appeals on Aug. 9, 1988. That decision was affirmed by the Supreme Court and became final and executory on Nov. 15, 1989.

However, the final and executory judgment was not enforced and the possession of the stadium was not restored to Flores. Instead, the trial court ordered the sheriff on Feb. 16, 1990 not to enforce the third writ of execution and thereafter recalled the same.

Flores filed petitions for review with the Supreme Court, and in resolutions dated Aug. 26, 1991, the Second Division gave due course to GR 97556 and to GR 101152 on Feb. 26, 1992.

After sitting on the case for almost five years, the First Division dismissed the consolidated petitions, ruling that the acquisition of ownership of the stadium by Ligon (Flores had leased it from the family of Claro Cortes and Ligon purchased it from the Corteses on April 18, 1986) is a "supervening event that rendered the deci-

As I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



sion no longer enforceable."

But a "supervening event" that can render unenforceable a final and executory judgment, must have "happened and transpired after the decision became final and executory. This doctrine has been repeated time and time again in numerous decisions and rulings of the high court. The final and executory judgment in favor of Flores was rendered by the tribunal on Nov. 15, 1989. The purchase of the stadium by Ligon was made on April 18, 1986. It was bought before, not after, the final and executory decision. Therefore, it could not have been the "supervening event" intended by the rules and cited by the trial court.

Obviously, the decision of the First Division was erroneous.

Flores filed a motion for reconsideration, praying that the First Division look at the facts of the case and the applicable rulings and doctrines on the immutability and unalterability of final and executory judgments and *res adjudicata*. However, the motion for reconsideration was summarily "denied with finality," without any explanation, and all the subsequent timely pleadings of Flores were merely "Noted without action" or "Expunged" from the records.

The issue in this case is quite simple. Did the purchase by Ligon of the stadium (the "supervening event") come after the final and executory decision of the Supreme Court? Did April 18, 1986 (the date of the purchase) come after Nov. 15, 1989 (the final and executory decision)? The answer

to both questions is "No!" So the purchase could not have rendered the final decision, which came later, unenforceable.

But the unkindest out of all is that Flores, on top of being denied the fruits of his victories in the final and executory decision, was forcibly dispossessed of his house and lot which were not involved in the litigation and are exempt from execution under the Family Code and the Rules of Court. On Sept. 24, 1998, his residential house and all the structures inside the premises were totally demolished and its premises were converted into a *talipapa*.

Is this justice or injustice? Is this a decision that the Supreme Court and its justices can be proud of?

Flores has not given up. He is persistent in seeking reconsideration of the erroneous decision, hopeful "that the Supreme Court will consider his persistence as a manifestation of his faith in the judicial system and not as disrespect to the Court; and finally give effect and meaning to its rulings and doctrines on the immutability and unalterability of final and executory judgments."

But apparently irked by Flores' persistence, the First Division on Nov. 22, 2000, imposed upon Flores a fine of P5,000 or imprisonment for five days if the fine was not paid within 10 days. Flores has not paid the fine and he now faces imprisonment.

The ponente of the First Division's erroneous decision of July 29, 1996, is Justice Regino Hermosissima. He retired from the Supreme Court on Oct. 18, 1997 and has now been nominated to the Judicial and Bar Council, awaiting confirmation by the Commission on Appointments. Flores is opposing his confirmation. His erroneous decision and refusal to reconsider the same render him "unfit to occupy the position of member of the Judicial and Bar Council where he will judge the qualification and fitness of a prospective member of the Bench," Flores says.

What do you think?

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THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



agreement among the older folk not to talk about it. The speaker gathered, from hints the older folks also dropped, that this was so because the memory was a painful one. The older folks had seen so many horrific scenes they would rather not dredge them up but simply confine them to their nightmares.

I could buy this explanation. It did not contradict the methodical erasure of the memory of the event by the occupation force, which it did to control the populace. It did not help to pacify a restive population to have images of children lying in pools of blood while still holding on to their kites stoked constantly. Alongside external censorship was internal censorship, the one wrought by the mind out of self-preservation, to insulate itself from trauma.

I've seen a similar attitude among some of those who went through the Japanese Occupation. While they are inclined to talk about instances of heroism, they are reticent about recalling personal loss. I was surprised some years ago, during the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Manila, to find very detailed accounts of the way the Japanese went on an orgy of mayhem during their last days in the city, which came out in some newspapers. I hadn't heard of them before.

I saw another case of this more recently among the political prisoners. Pressed to give individual statements about the torture they endured in Marcos' prison camps, which was the second phase of the class suit against Marcos, many of them banded together to commonly recall their ordeal. The banding together wasn't just meant for accuracy—to check their memory against each another—it was meant for protection. Some of them told me later that they had

pretty much buried that part of their lives in obscure corners of their mind, and were terrified to exhume them. I know a couple of people who could not bring themselves to take part in it, the ones who came back from the deep end only by the skin of their teeth.

There is, however, yet another explanation for why we tend to forget things about the past, or remember only the things we like to. I got this insight only a few years ago when a war veteran refused adamantly to contribute his first-hand knowledge of the guerrilla war against the Japanese. His reason for this was that he knew of the abuses committed by some of those who became heroes of that war. Or he knew of the less than heroic deaths of some of them: One was caught by the Japanese literally with his pants down, and got beheaded (in the right place) as a result of it. The veteran's philosophy was to let sleeping dogs—and heroes—lie. It did not help history, or personal relations, to rake those things up.

I myself have always thought that shouldn't be so. Heroes do not stop being heroes for being human beings. In fact, what makes heroes heroes is their humanity first and last, with all its power and frailty. But for good or ill, this is a country that tends to look at its heroes in mythical terms. Indeed, this is a country whose history is not always easily separated from its myths. More than that, this is a country where personal relations matter like life and death itself. History is not easily separable from myth, it is not easily separable from biography, with all its "improvements on facts." You cannot recall these things without challenging the official biographies, or versions at least (not all of them exist in written form) of the heroes, with its implications for your personal relations with their descendants. It makes for a subtler kind of censorship.

Writing history is first remembering it. But remembering it is never safe. In this country, it is as risky as war itself.

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Drop Jalosjos from House roster

TAMA na naman, members of the House of Representatives. Speaker Jose de Venecia and Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II have opined that Zamboanga Rep. Romeo Jalosjos may already be dropped from the rolls once the House is furnished a copy of the Supreme Court's decision affirming with finality his conviction for rape, after repeated motions for reconsideration. But the ethics committee, chaired by Isabela Rep. Antonio Abaya, is disputing their view, and still wants to hold a hearing of his committee before Jalosjos is expelled. De Venecia has objected, arguing that what Abaya wants would entail plenary action, meaning, the entire House has to vote in session on Jalosjos' expulsion.

The problem is, *kung ano-ano na namang grandstanding ang gagawin ng ilang House members*. Worse, as JDV pointed out, if a plenary session ends up with a vote against expulsion (and considering the state of mind of some people in the House, this is not remote), then there would be a constitutional crisis pitting the legislature against the judiciary.

What the representatives have to realize is that prolonged debate would send the wrong signals especially to the young people as well as to potential rapists that the lawmakers are confused over moral values. For too long, the House has coddled their condemned colleague out of a misguided sense of *pakikisama* and *awa*. Now all they have to do is perform a ministerial function, as Gonzales put it, i.e., to simply drop Jalosjos from the rolls and get on with business.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez made sure he would be able to put forward the pollution and health hazard issues against Placer Dome, the Canadian firm that used to own 40 percent of Marcopper Mining, by bringing Marinduque Rep. Edmund Reyes to Canada for the President's visit. Reyes, who was the prosecution panel's dapper spokesperson during the Senate impeachment trial, was not scheduled to go with the President's party, but Alvarez wanted to dramatize the pollution of Marinduque River and Calancan Bay by the mining firm

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Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



and the health hazards that the mine tailings dumped into those waters posed to the citizenry of Marinduque for many years, and the destruction of their livelihood. There was no better way to do this than to make Reyes speak directly to the Canadian press about his province's tragic experience. The President is supporting the Marinduqueños' claims for damages from Placer Dome.

In Canada, Alvarez stressed the need for mining firms to be good corporate citizens in order to restore the people's confidence and trust in them. In the end, he opined, it's the mining industry that will profit from the improved trust.

In the post of environment secretary, it is important to put someone of stature who can talk back to the big multinational firms and the politicians when they violate the law. The Commission on Appointments has to confirm Alvarez because he is effective in that job.

If the press was needing Press Secretary Noel Cabrera to disclose the identities of the businessmen who are funding a PR campaign for the Macapagal administration abroad, through the high-powered US PR firm Burston and Marsteller, it's because of a justifiable fear that the now nameless and faceless businessmen might later use their connections with Malacañang for their own ends. There is nothing wrong with employing the services of PR firms to boost or correct the image of the country and the President. Earlier administrations have resorted to this. What's not good about the current arrangement is that the PR contract is being funded by private businessmen when the

correct move would be for the government to pay for those legitimate services.

I suspect that the businessmen referred to are the same ones involved in the so-called Sikatuna group that figured in the Department of Foreign Affairs controversy. I know some of these people and it seems fair to say that their primordial desire is to help President Macapagal succeed. The people in this group are in the same age bracket as Ms Macapagal and therefore they speak her language and she seems to be very comfortable with them and she knows how they work. Then too, they deliver results, be it putting GMA on the cover of Time or borrowing private planes for her use abroad.

But it's also understandable that the arrangement is making some sectors nervous. Those nameless and faceless people wield enormous power and influence in the administration, yet they have no legal personality and certainly no public accountability (they did not pass the Commission on Appointments and it would be difficult to summon them to public hearings).

Every administration has its own power-wielders from the private sector who enjoy the chief executive's confidence. In the Cory years, for instance, the "kamag-anaks" played a super-role that marginalized the PCGG many times. But it seems that Ms Macapagal has displayed a bigger propensity to use private individuals in functions properly left to government agencies than past regimes. This has been illustrated by the Sikatuna group's running the DFA, despite Cabrera's yeoman efforts to deny its existence, and the role that a private group called Code-NGO, chaired by Marissa Camacho-Reyes, sister of Finance Secretary Lito Camacho, played in designing and marketing the "PEACE Bonds." As Senate finance committee chair John Osmeña pointed out, that function ought to be done by the Bureau of the Treasury. Both instances of what Rep. Raul Gonzalez termed "usurpation of public functions" have led to controversy.

'Laway at koneksyon?'

PERHAPS one of the most telling swipes taken at Code-NGO is that it made P1.4 billion in profit on the PEACE Bonds without spending a centavo. Or as Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta, who paired with her "balato twin" Sen. Sonny Osmeña in raking Marissa Reyes and Dan Songo over the coals in the Senate hearing the other day, put it, "*laway at koneksyon lang ang puhunan nila* (their only investment was saliva and connections)."

Sorting out my own position on the issue, I asked myself if I thought Code-NGO did nothing wrong only because I know its officers and members and I agree with most of their views on political and social issues.

What if it was, say, the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation that took advantage of the zero bonds flotation? Well, since that foundation has yet to this day give us the name of even a single Muslim scholar who got an education from *jueteng* profits, I'd certainly raise an eyebrow. Code-NGO at least has a long unassailable track record on poverty alleviation projects.

Actually, it doesn't really matter which private entity profits from such transactions. As Songo put it in a TV interview, if an investment house had claimed the profit, nobody would have raised an objection. "Is it wrong only because it was Code-NGO that profited from it?"

Certainly, if Code-NGO had sought a meeting with Erap-era officials, I doubt if they would have been able to get a foot in the door. Then again, if their proposal contained even just the whiff of illegality or irregularity, I doubt if they would have been entertained at all by Macapagal-era officials, given that they began talking just a few months after Erap's ouster in the wake of various scandals.

CODE-NGO has been criticized as banking on its "political capital" or influence to get the bond flotation off the ground.

Red Mayo, one of the investment bankers who helped Code-NGO put together its proposal on the zeroes, asserts that the Bureau of Treasury

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Rina Jimenez-David



had already been talking with banks on the possibility of issuing "zeroes." Trouble was, there were issues that needed to be hurdled before such an instrument could be made "attractive" enough for the capital market. One of these was a "debate" between the Treasury and the BIR on the matter of tax exemptions.

Marissa bristles at snide observations that *laway* was all the capital they expended on the project. "We put together a good team of investment bankers, tax lawyers and finance people to help us," she says. "But the real difference, I think, is the *kakulitan* (doggedness) of the NGOs. While dealing with the Central Bank, we went from division to division, and brought in our people to work with them on every question. When they raised doubts about our ability to finance agri-agra projects, we brought in our member-NGOs which were engaged in such projects. With the BIR, we had our tax lawyers answer their positions point by point. Everything they asked us to get, we got. If they told us to jump, our only reply was, 'How high?'"

AS the sale of the "zeroes" neared, Code-NGO sought a concession from the Treasury to have the bonds sold in a negotiated sale. But though there were precedents for negotiated sales in other bond issues, National Treasurer Sergio Edeza turned them down, decreeing that for the sake of transparency the sale be done through an auction. This was dutifully announced through three major international information services. In fact, the Treasury even conducted a "mock auction" a couple of weeks before the auction so it could test its systems.

For seeking this concession, Code-NGO has come under attack. A spokesperson for the Action for Economic Reform, which wrote a scathing critique of the transaction, chose to focus in a TV interview on this request as a particularly heinous form of "rent-seeking."

The reason they sought for a negotiated sale, says Marissa, is that if their agent-bank lost the bid, then all their months of dogged work and follow-up to get zeroes issued would have gone down the drain. And the money meant for poverty alleviation projects would have gone into private profits instead.

So, failing to win this concession, they called on a higher power. "We organized prayer brigades on the day of the auction," Marissa recalls. "I texted everyone on my list to pray for a successful outcome, even my friends abroad. We're just lucky we won the bid."

NOW, "luck" is something few observers, in this cynical world, would want to concede to Code-NGO. In our highly politicized society, it seems highly unlikely for anyone, even, or especially, "bleeding-heart NGO types," to make money out of nothing more than a good idea, a well-prepared package and good staff work.

It strikes me as sad, for instance, that many can't seem to believe that a private bank and investment house like RCB would commit its own money to buy the zeroes and willingly turn over a share of the profit to Code-NGO only because it believed in the cause of poverty alleviation. Do the NGOs have a monopoly on good intentions and civic spirit? And should profit-making be anathema to the NGOs?

This, I suspect, lies at the heart of the objections raised over Code-NGO's participation in the PEACE Bonds sale. "I realized that with this, Code-NGO crossed the line from non-profit to profit," Dan was candid enough to admit. But is this necessarily bad, or an impermissible form of rent-seeking? Or as a friend asked: So what's wrong with rent-seeking?

(To be concluded)

Charisma and charism

"CHARISMA" is an oft-repeated word these days because it is "what Gloria hasn't." Charisma, observers wish, to go with a good intellect that her perennially befuddled, besotted ousted predecessor sorely lacked.

But what she lacks in the charm department, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo says, she makes up for with plenty of gray matter and work, work, work. It has gotten to her, this thing about being lacking in razzle-dazzle that the Estrada sycophants and fans as well as those who genuinely wish her to succeed, keep rubbing in.

And so she sprang back at them—better bright than *bobob*, and hardworking, too. Not her words exactly, and it was not to look down on those who are less endowed upstairs, but to remind everyone that this country has little appreciation for brains and a good work ethic.

Are her decisions correct and good for the country? Not, is she charismatic? Is she actually doing all she can for the poor? Not, why is she so *taray*? It has all gotten mixed up with whether her allowing US forces to set up tents in Mindanao is constitutional. Which is more important, what Gloria has and hasn't or what Gloria does and doesn't?

An exasperated Doyen David-Maramba, in her commentary last week ("GMA deserves better"), said "we are asking for a near-impossible combination: a charismatic and inspiring manager-leader." If forced to choose only one of these qualities, Maramba would rather have a manager. She could have added: given the situation we are in and the kind of people we are this very moment. We complain yet we are ourselves part of the problem, she said, a deadly combination of being ungovernable and incapable of governing ourselves. Pray tell, she asked, how can a leader inspire a people like this?

From his five-star hospital-prison, Estrada gleefully salivated and said, "You either have it or you don't," or something to that effect. Well, if he had "it" (and millions were smitten by it like victims of *budol-budol*), he certainly misused it.

By harping on this charisma thing that the

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo



President "hasn't" but more than substituted with her own gifts, do the charisma-seekers actually prefer an Estrada? Can they get over the infantile fixation?

In the midst of all this, people ran to books on sociology and psychology to better understand "what Gloria hasn't." The simplest dictionary meaning of charisma is "a personal magic or leadership arousing special popular loyalty or enthusiasm for a public figure." It does not say that this is the result of being upright. It sure is a gift—that's all. And it better be used for good. Otherwise, look what movie-star charisma did to this country.

The other word that should also have been in lights these days is "charism." The word has a rather religious connotation and became a post-Vatican II in-word among theologians and religious orders and spiritual movements in search of their roots and the original spirit of their founders. Charism comes from the Greek word used by Saint Paul to mean favor, gratuitous gift or benefit. I looked up the word in theology books and always the definition includes the phrase, "to be used for the common good." Having gifts is not enough.

That is why, for the Catholic Church "discernment of charisms is always necessary." This is not to extinguish them, "but to test all things and hold fast to what is good" so that all the diverse and complementary charisms work together "for the common good."

This is why visionaries and prophets ahead of their time were tested, even chastised by stodgy, fuddy-duddy authorities who did not understand. But their spirit lived on long after

they were gone. That is great charism.

Mahatma Gandhi's charism lives on. So does Mohammed's and Francis of Assisi's and Teresa of Avila's. Something bigger than their mortal selves they left behind to serve as light to those who follow after. And not to forget the man from Nazareth.

Hitler, it is said, had charisma. But there was no charism to outlive him, only proof of his evil deeds and survivors of his created hell.

During World War II, psychologist H.L. Ansbacher and a group of social scientists studied the attitudes of 643 German prisoners of war to Allied propaganda. Among them, 65 percent expressed confidence in Hitler despite Germany's military defeats.

Ansbacher explained this attitude: "The object of confidence was no longer the real totalitarian leader as manifested in (Hitler's) writings, speeches and deeds, but a leader of the follower's own creation. He was a leader who knew the war was lost...and did not expect his soldiers to fight to the last bullet under all circumstances, although he had given explicit orders to that effect. He was a Hitler who at least in these respects was reasonable, compromising, humane—which the real Hitler was not."

"The imagined Hitler was the expression of the motives of the majority of his followers. The extraordinary confidence in Hitler during 14 months of continuous reversals finds its explanation in the phenomenon that the object of confidence was at least in part a social-psychological creation, rather than a complete reality."

So much for charisma. **Cebu launch.** After the successful, well-attended Manila launching of "Church, Politics and Transformation," a collection of essays by the late Fr. Luis G. Hechanova, CSSR, and of the LGH Foundation set up by his militant friends to help the poor, a Cebu repeat. Feb. 9 at 4 p.m. at the Redeemerist Fathers' place on R. Aboliz St., Cebu City. Those who want to buy books and help the foundation may call/text 0917-527911 or (632) 8956234, 3 Taurus, Bel Air, Makati City.

Beautiful but deadly

LAST night, it rained hard again. It was raining so hard that I thought the roof would shatter to pieces. There were also thunder and lightning. It seemed as if the sky was burning with liquid fire. The thunder came with so much fury that my heart hammered miserably. I was terrified.

I used to enjoy rainy days and nights. When our family was still living in a banana plantation somewhere in Davao del Norte, it seemed to me that the rain was magical. The rhythm of the rain against the roof excited my young mind and heart. Over my *yaya's* protest, I would run out of our house and play in the rain.

How I loved to play in the rain! I would close my eyes and think of fancy things. As drops of rain drenched my body, I imagined the sea, the vast ocean and thought of distant lands where fairies and elves lived. All I could imagine then was bliss.

During rainy nights, I would tuck myself under the blanket with a contented sigh. I listened to the patter of the rain against the roof, and to me, the sound was musical. The rain was my lullaby. And I would slowly drift to a deep and peaceful sleep.

The mornings after the rain were even more beautiful. I used to gaze at the newly washed earth with wonder. How I loved to watch the trees as they dripped with heavy morning dew. Everything the rain had touched the night before was made livelier; weariness had been swept away from the earth. And I would pray that later in the day, the rain would come again so that I could play, so that I could dream, so that I could sleep peacefully in the evening and awaken to a beautiful morning.

As I grew up, things began to happen one by one. First, my family moved to a city about four hours away from the town where I grew up. I immediately didn't like life in the city. The people seemed nasty to me because they were unfriendly, and very indifferent. There was too much noise. I could not understand why the streets had to be busy all day and all night.

Our first house in the city was very small compared to our provincial house. I guess, it was the only thing we could afford. Believe me, our house was like a matchbox. And our neighbors were so near that we hardly had any privacy.

Everything in the city was for sale! We had to pay for everything! We had to discard the electric stove, for example, to save on electricity and use a gas stove instead. We lost the conveniences we had when we were still living in the American-owned banana company: free water and electricity, free house (which was really big and cozy), medical benefits and a lot more.

I will never forget one fateful, rainy night when I was awakened by my mother's frantic movements inside our house. I went out from my room and stepped into something wet.

I was horrified to see a strong current of water right inside our house. Soon, the floodwater was knee-high. I felt nauseated. I started feeling itchy all over just thinking about how dirty the water was. I cried as I tried to look for some place where the floodwater would not reach me.

It rained some more that night, and I cursed the heavens. I just wanted the rain to stop. But it didn't. That was the time rainy days and nights ceased to be magical to me.

In the morning, everything was a mess. Many of our things were ruined. I was sad and angry as I helped clean up the house. Everything was foul-smelling. And I cursed the rain.

Since that terrible flood, I have dreaded the rain. I feel uncomfortable each time rain begins to fall. Rain has ceased to be beautiful to me because in its angry pouring, I see ugly images.

We now live in a better house where floodwater cannot reach us. But rain to me now is the flood, the murky water, the terrible smell. Rain reminds me of problems, the ones our family experienced during our first few months in the city. I'm not so sure why I now despise something that I once loved so well. Maybe it's because I cannot understand why something so beautiful as rain can bring so much destruction. I cannot understand why something so beautiful as rain can bring me fear.

Sheryl Jo Urdaneta, 21, is an AB Language and Literature student at the University of Southeastern Philippines in Davao City. She is the editor in chief of the student publication, *The Collegiate Headlight*.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO ...?

Lumbao rebellion case

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice filed rebellion charges against Ronaldo Lumbao in connection with the Labor Day siege of Malacañang before the Manila Regional Trial Court on Oct. 11, 2001. Lumbao is the president of the People's Movement Against Poverty which is closely identified with ousted President Joseph Estrada. He is accused of violating Article 134 of the Revised Penal Code when he "willfully, unlawfully and feloniously...rose up publicly and took up arms against the Philippine government and its laws by marching toward Malacañang and attacking it, causing injuries, violence and destruction in the process."

The DOJ cited a speech Lumbao delivered at Edsa on April 30 where he allegedly urged the crowd: "*Lusubin ang Malacañang! Lusob! Lusob! Ngayon na, ngayon na, lusob na, lusob na!*" This allegedly prompted Estrada's supporters to attack Malacañang in an attempt to overthrow the government of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Violence erupted in the vicinity of the Palace, forcing the President to declare a state of rebellion in the metropolis.

Judge Teresa Soriaso of Branch 27 issued a warrant for Lumbao's arrest on Oct. 19, 2001. Several provincial police stations asked for a copy of the warrant from the court but they were not able to locate the accused in their respective areas.

Lawyer Ricardo Valmonte, Lumbao's counsel, filed an omnibus motion on Nov. 19 on behalf of the accused asking the court to recall the warrant of arrest and that the case be returned to the Office of the State Prosecutor for reinvestigation. He likewise asked that the accused be allowed to post bail. The justice department filed its reply to the motion on Dec. 10 and the accused replied on Dec. 29.

Case status: Lumbao has not yet been arraigned since he is still at large. The court's decision on Lumbao's omnibus motion filed last Nov. 16 is still being awaited by both his lawyer and government prosecutors.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department

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Rina Jimenez-David



had already been talking with banks on the possibility of issuing "zeroes." Trouble was, there were issues that needed to be hurdled before such an instrument could be made "attractive" enough for the capital market. One of these was a "debate" between the Treasury and the BIR on the matter of tax exemptions.

Marissa bristles at snide observations that *laway* was all the capital they expended on the project. "We put together a good team of investment bankers, tax lawyers and finance people to help us," she says. "But the real difference, I think, is the *kakulitan* (doggedness) of the NGOs. While dealing with the Central Bank, we went from division to division, and brought in our people to work with them on every question. When they raised doubts about our ability to finance agri-agra projects, we brought in our member-NGOs which were engaged in such projects. With the BIR, we had our tax lawyers answer their positions point by point. Everything they asked us to get, we got. If they told us to jump, our only reply was, 'How high?'"

AS the sale of the "zeroes" neared, Code-NGO sought a concession from the Treasury to have the bonds sold in a negotiated sale. But though there were precedents for negotiated sales in other bond issues, National Treasurer Sergio Edeza turned them down, decreeing that for the sake of transparency the sale be done through an auction. This was dutifully announced through three major international information services. In fact, the Treasury even conducted a "mock auction" a couple of weeks before the auction so it could test its systems.

For seeking this concession, Code-NGO has come under attack. A spokesperson for the Action for Economic Reform, which wrote a scathing critique of the transaction, chose to focus in a TV interview on this request as a particularly heinous form of "rent-seeking."

The reason they sought for a negotiated sale, says Marissa, is that if their agent-bank lost the bid, then all their months of dogged work and follow-up to get zeroes issued would have gone down the drain. And the money meant for poverty alleviation projects would have gone into private profits instead.

So, failing to win this concession, they called on a higher power. "We organized prayer brigades on the day of the auction," Marissa recalls. "I texted everyone on my list to pray for a successful outcome, even my friends abroad. We're just lucky we won the bid."

NOW, "luck" is something few observers, in this cynical world, would want to concede to Code-NGO. In our highly politicized society, it seems highly unlikely for anyone, even, or especially, "bleeding-heart NGO types," to make money out of nothing more than a good idea, a well-prepared package and good staff work.

It strikes me as sad, for instance, that many can't seem to believe that a private bank and investment house like RCBC would commit its own money to buy the zeroes and willingly turn over a share of the profit to Code-NGO only because it believed in the cause of poverty alleviation. Do the NGOs have a monopoly on good intentions and civic spirit? And should profit-making be anathema to the NGOs?

This, I suspect, lies at the heart of the objections raised over Code-NGO's participation in the PEACE Bonds sale. "I realized that with this, Code-NGO crossed the line from non-profit to profit," Dan was candid enough to admit. But is this necessarily bad, or an impermissible form of rent-seeking? Or as a friend asked: So what's wrong with rent-seeking?

(To be concluded)

Charisma and charism

"CHARISMA" is an oft-repeated word these days because it is "what Gloria hasn't." Charisma, observers wish, to go with a good intellect that her perennially befuddled, besotted ousted predecessor sorely lacked.

But what she lacks in the charm department, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo says, she makes up for with plenty of gray matter and work, work, work. It has gotten to her, this thing about being lacking in razzle-dazzle that the Estrada sycophants and fans as well as those who genuinely wish her to succeed, keep rubbing in.

And so she sprang back at them—better bright than *bobbo*, and hardworking, too. Not her words exactly, and it was not to look down on those who are less endowed upstairs, but to remind everyone that this country has little appreciation for brains and a good work ethic.

Are her decisions correct and good for the country? Not, is she charismatic? Is she actually doing all she can for the poor? Not, why is she so *tatay*? It has all gotten mixed up with whether her allowing US forces to set up tents in Mindanao is constitutional. Which is more important, what Gloria has and hasn't or what Gloria does and doesn't?

An exasperated Sonny David-Maramba, in her commentary last week ("GMA deserves better"), said "we are asking for a near-impossible combination: a charismatic and inspiring manager-leader." If forced to choose only one of these qualities, Maramba would rather have a manager. She could have added: given the situation we are in and the kind of people we are this very moment. We complain yet we are ourselves part of the problem, she said, a deadly combination of being ungovernable and incapable of governing ourselves. Pray tell, she asked, how can a leader inspire a people like this?

From his five-star hospital-prison, Estrada gleefully salivated and said, "You either have it or you don't," or something to that effect. Well, if he had "it" (and millions were smitten by it like victims of *budol-budol*), he certainly misused it.

By harping on this charisma thing that the

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo



President "hasn't" but more than substituted with her own gifts, do the charisma-seekers actually prefer an Estrada? Can they get over the infantile fixation?

In the midst of all this, people ran to books on sociology and psychology to better understand "what Gloria hasn't." The simplest dictionary meaning of charisma is "a personal magic or leadership arousing special popular loyalty or enthusiasm for a public figure." It does not say that this is the result of being upright. It sure is a gift—that's all. And it better be used for good. Otherwise, look what movie-star charisma did to this country.

The other word that should also have been in lights these days is "charism." The word has a rather religious connotation and became a post-Vatican II in-word among theologians and religious orders and spiritual movements in search of their roots and the original spirit of their founders. Charism comes from the Greek word used by Saint Paul to mean favor, gratuitous gift or benefit. I looked up the word in theology books and always the definition includes the phrase, "to be used for the common good." Having gifts is not enough.

That is why, for the Catholic Church "discernment of charisms is always necessary." This is not to extinguish them, "but to test all things and hold fast to what is good" so that all the diverse and complementary charisms work together "for the common good."

This is why visionaries and prophets ahead of their time were tested, even chastised by stodgy, fuddy-duddy authorities who did not understand. But their spirit lived on long after

they were gone. That is great charism.

Mahatma Gandhi's charism lives on. So does Mohammed's and Francis of Assisi's and Teresa of Avila's. Something bigger than their mortal selves they left behind to serve as light to those who follow after. And not to forget the man from Nazareth.

Hitler, it is said, had charisma. But there was no charism to outlive him, only proof of his evil deeds and survivors of his created hell.

During World War II, psychologist H.L. Ansbacher and a group of social scientists studied the attitudes of 643 German prisoners of war to Allied propaganda. Among them, 65 percent expressed confidence in Hitler despite Germany's military defeats.

Ansbacher explained this attitude: "The object of confidence was no longer the real totalitarian leader as manifested in (Hitler's) writings, speeches and deeds, but a leader of the follower's own creation. He was a leader who knew the war was lost...and did not expect his soldiers to fight to the last bullet under all circumstances, although he had given explicit orders to that effect. He was a Hitler who at least in these respects was reasonable, compromising, humane—which the real Hitler was not."

"The imagined Hitler was the expression of the motives of the majority of his followers. The extraordinary confidence in Hitler during 14 months of continuous reversals finds its explanation in the phenomenon that the object of confidence was at least in part a social-psychological creation, rather than a complete reality."

So much for charisma.
Cebu launch. After the successful, well-attended Manila launching of "Church, Politics and Transformation," a collection of essays by the late Fr. Luis G. Hechanova, CSSR, and of the LGH Foundation set up by his militant friends to help the poor, a Cebu repeat. Feb. 9 at 4 p.m. at the Redeemerist Fathers' place on R. Aboliz St., Cebu City. Those who want to buy books and help the foundation may call/text 0917-527911 or (632) 8956234, 3 Taurus, Bel Air, Makati City.

Beautiful but deadly

LAST night, it rained hard again. It was raining so hard that I thought the roof would shatter to pieces. There were also thunder and lightning. It seemed as if the sky was burning with liquid fire. The thunder came with so much fury that my heart hammered miserably. I was terrified.

I used to enjoy rainy days and nights. When our family was still living in a banana plantation somewhere in Davao del Norte, it seemed to me that the rain was magical. The rhythm of the rain against the roof excited my young mind and heart. Over my *yaya's* protest, I would run out of our house and play in the rain.

How I loved to play in the rain! I would close my eyes and think of fancy things. As drops of rain drenched my body, I imagined the sea, the vast ocean and thought of distant lands where fairies and elves lived. All I could imagine then was bliss.

During rainy nights, I would tuck myself under the blanket with a contented sigh. I listened to the patter of the rain against the roof, and to me, the sound was musical. The rain was my lullaby. And I would slowly drift to a deep and peaceful sleep.

The mornings after the rain were even more beautiful. I used to gaze at the newly washed earth with wonder. How I loved to watch the trees as they dripped with heavy morning dew. Every thing the rain had touched the night before was made livelier: weariness had been swept away from the earth. And I would pray that later in the day, the rain would come again so that I could play, so that I could dream, so that I could sleep peacefully in the evening and awaken to a beautiful morning.

As I grew up, things began to happen one by one. First, my family moved to a city about four hours away from the town where I grew up. I immediately didn't like life in the city. The people seemed nasty to me because they were unfriendly, and very indifferent. There was too much noise. I could not understand why the streets had to be busy all day and all night.

Our first house in the city was very small compared to our provincial house. I guess, it was the only thing we could afford. Believe me, our house was like a matchbox. And our neighbors were so near that we hardly had any privacy.

Everything in the city was for sale! We had to pay for everything! We had to discard the electric stove, for example, to save on electricity and use a gas stove instead. We lost the conveniences we had when we were still living in the American-owned banana company: free water and electricity, free house (which was really big and cozy), medical benefits and a lot more.

I will never forget one fateful, rainy night when I was awakened by my mother's frantic movements inside our house. I went out from my room and stepped into something wet.

I was horrified to see a strong current of water right inside our house. Soon, the floodwater was knee-high. I felt nauseated. I started feeling itchy all over just thinking about how dirty the water was. I cried as I tried to look for some place where the floodwater would not reach me.

It rained some more that night, and I cursed the heavens. I just wanted the rain to stop. But it didn't. That was the time rainy days and nights ceased to be magical to me.

In the morning, everything was a mess. Many of our things were ruined. I was sad and angry as I helped clean up the house. Everything was foul-smelling. And I cursed the rain.

Since that terrible flood, I have dreaded the rain. I feel uncomfortable each time rain begins to fall. Rain has ceased to be beautiful to me because in its angry pouring, I see ugly images.

We now live in a better house where floodwater cannot reach us. But rain to me now is the flood, the murky water, the terrible smell. Rain reminds me of problems, the ones our family experienced during our first few months in the city. I'm not sure why I now despise something that I once loved so well. Maybe it's because I cannot understand why something so beautiful as rain can bring so much destruction. I cannot understand why something so beautiful as rain can bring me fear.

Sheryl Jo Urdaneta, 21, is an AB Language and Literature student at the University of Southeastern Philippines in Davao City. She is the editor in chief of the student publication, *The College Headlight*.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...?

Lumbao rebellion case

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice filed rebellion charges against Ronaldo Lumbao in connection with the Labor Day siege of Malacañang before the Manila Regional Trial Court on Oct. 11, 2001. Lumbao is the president of the People's Movement Against Poverty which is closely identified with ousted President Joseph Estrada. He is accused of violating Article 134 of the Revised Penal Code when he "willfully, unlawfully and feloniously...rose up publicly and took up arms against the Philippine government and its laws by marching toward Malacañang and attacking it, causing injuries, violence and destruction in the process."

The DOJ cited a speech Lumbao delivered at Edsa on April 30 where he allegedly urged the crowd: "*Lusubin ang Malacañang! Lusob! Lusob! Ngayon na, ngayon na, lusob na, lusob na!*" This allegedly prompted Estrada's supporters to attack Malacañang in an attempt to overthrow the government of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Violence erupted in the vicinity of the Palace, forcing the President to declare a state of rebellion in the metropolis.

Judge Teresa Soriaso of Branch 27 issued a warrant for Lumbao's arrest on Oct. 19, 2001. Several provincial police stations asked for a copy of the warrant from the court but they were not able to locate the accused in their respective areas.

Lawyer Ricardo Valmonte, Lumbao's counsel, filed an omnibus motion on Nov. 19 on behalf of the accused asking the court to recall the warrant of arrest and that the case be returned to the Office of the State Prosecutor for reinvestigation. He likewise asked that the accused be allowed to post bail. The justice department filed its reply to the motion on Dec. 10 and the accused replied on Dec. 29.

Case status: Lumbao has not yet been arraigned since he is still at large. The court's decision on Lumbao's omnibus motion filed last Nov. 16 is still being awaited by both his lawyer and government prosecutors.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department

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A moral duty and an economic imperative

AS a foreigner who has lived in the Philippines for five years, I find the current debate over US support for the country's anti-terror campaign mystifying. Former Senate President Jovito Salonga suggests that we address the facts of the case. I agree.

First, people's lives are at stake. The Abu Sayyaf still holds three hostages, two of them since the Dos Palmas kidnapping last May. Through its barbaric treatment of innocent people, and in particular the beheading of hostages (Filipinos and foreigners), the Abu Sayyaf has earned the right to be regarded as one of the world's most ruthless terrorist groups.

The Abu Sayyaf is not the only group terrorizing people in Mindanao; the Pentagon Group, for example, has held Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni since October.

Many of those who find US support for the Philippine military so distasteful should ask themselves how they would feel if one of their loved ones were held by either of these groups.

Second, Danilo Vizmanos (Letters, 1/27/02) may have confidence in the ability of the Filipino soldier to solve the Abu Sayyaf

problem, but I am afraid I do not. Rescuing the Dos Palmas hostages has been the Philippines' No. 1 security objective since the middle of last year, yet it remains as elusive as ever. The utterly shameful behavior of the AFP at the time of the escape from the Lamitan hospital in the early days of the crisis and its subsequent inability to make any progress in combating what Conrado de Quiros calls "a small band of kidnappers" mean that they have forfeited any right to enjoy our confidence in their ability to resolve this problem. (It may also legitimately be asked whether De Quiros is right to characterize the Abu Sayyaf as "a small band of kidnappers" who happened to have taken a couple of American hostages.) I recall that this "small band" was paid over \$10 million by the Libyans less than two years ago. When they carried out the Dos Palmas kidnapping, their getaway craft was faster by far than anything owned by the Philippine Navy.)

Third, the Philippines is looking into an economic abyss. The National Statistics Coordination Board recently admitted that one of every four Filipinos survives on less than P38 a day. The two areas with the most potential for

pulling the country out of this mess are foreign inward investment and tourism, yet these are particularly sensitive to security issues. The Philippine peso could drop to P150 to the dollar, but it won't encourage IBM to invest here if its executives are likely to end up with their heads cut off. Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon can have as many fancy tourism promotion schemes as he likes, but they won't persuade holidaymakers to return to Philippine beaches while there is even an outside chance that they may have the kind of holiday enjoyed by the Dos Palmas hostages last year or the Sipadan hostages the year before that.

Fourth, many other countries, including my own (United Kingdom), do not regard the presence of American troops on their soil as compromising their sovereignty. Given the history of American interference in Philippine domestic politics, the suspicions of De Quiros and others are understandable, but nevertheless the sensible thing for the Philippine government to do is to define the American role very clearly and to maximize the advantages to the Philippines from such a relation-

ship, not to reject it out of hand. Finally, while Manila-based nationalists wring their hands at this grave affront to national sovereignty, US troops were welcomed by Filipinos in Zamboanga (as Neal Cruz pointed out). We might ask who is most competent to judge whether Americans can help to end this threat: the people most directly affected or newspaper columnists eager to enhance their anti-imperialist credentials?

Given these facts, I believe the President has both a moral duty to do everything she can to save the lives of the unfortunate remaining hostages and an economic imperative to try to end one of the greatest obstacles to economic recovery. She has every right to request support from a friendly power, whatever breast-beating nationalists, safe in their Manila homes, may have to say.—**JOHN GIBSON, 2030 A. Mabini St., Manila**

In touch

"DO you have the INQUIRER yet?" my father hollers from his room. "Just a minute, I'll get it," I assure him.

I'm sure similar scenes occur in thousands of Filipino households each day. The difference though is that what I just described happened in Shanghai over the Christmas break, and what my father was referring to was the Internet edition of the INQUIRER.

In what eventually became a ritual, I would switch on my aunt's computer right before breakfast. Connections were fast and in two or three minutes we would have the INQUIRER online. My father, who's still leery of computers, would watch by the side while I scrolled through the headlines, clicking for an article that interested him.

My sister and her family, who were visiting as well from Canada, would occasionally peek in as well, "in7.net" being a familiar address for them in Ottawa, where they'd occasionally check for news from home and "Uncle Mike's columns." That morning ritual over, we'd pile into our van for the day's tour. Traffic can be bad too in Shanghai and I'd pass time reading the day's New York Times or the Guardian, a British paper. Again, I'm not talking about the paper edition. I use a Palm handheld organizer which allows you to sign up for a great (and free!) service called Avantgo.

Avantgo allows you to pick out news services you want. Every time you plug the organizer into the Internet (also a morning ritual for me), the service automatically downloads pre-selected articles from these services. In 10 minutes I get quite a few articles not just from the two newspapers I mentioned but also news feeds from, among others, BBC, CBC (the Canadian Broadcasting Service) and the South China Morning Post. (I'm hoping the INQUIRER will eventually be downloadable as well from Avantgo.)

Avantgo isn't limited to news articles. Sometimes my 14-year-old nephew Michael would ask to borrow the Palm as well; to his delight, the Avantgo downloads include quite a few book and film reviews. My physician brother-in-law, on the other hand, would check out medical and science news. It's all similar to the way we divide up newspapers in households, except we now do this with electronic editions.

I still have mixed feelings about the new information technologies. I worry about the temptation for people, especially younger ones, to retreat into an Internet cocoon, a virtual world where you only pick out the images and sounds you want. Certainly, I do that even in my choice of Avantgo materials to download, the Guardian being a left-of-center newspaper and New York Times being sort of liberal. But I did sign up, eventually, for The Economist, a very conservative British magazine that constantly rails against government "meddling" in business and sings praises to globalization.

It's important we're conscious about how information is filtered. As a columnist and a teacher, I know it's important not just to be current, but to get as broad a range of views as possible about issues, whether in politics or in medicine and science. That's where I revel at the Internet, a kind of massive information bazaar that brings the world to you.

But for all the colors and sounds of websites, I think the best part of the Internet is still e-mail. Again, it's working with the INQUIRER that makes me appreciate its full potentials. It's e-mail that allows me to send my columns from Cebu or Shanghai. It is e-mail, too, which brings letters from readers, former students now scattered all over the world (including someone who e-mailed to announce that he is now a she), my sister in Ottawa, an overseas worker out in Riyadh, or an old friend from Bontoc.

This takes me to the e-mail that inspired me to do today's piece. Last week I got an e-mail from Dr. Penny Domogo, the municipal health officer of Bontoc, Mountain Province. I've known Penny from my student days but because she's out there in Bontoc, we rarely get to meet. Until recently, Bontoc didn't have cell sites either and there was no stable Internet connection. Penny's letter assured me those connections are now in place.

Penny was giving me feedback about two of my columns on "the three wise women" and "blue moons and meteor showers." I was thrilled to learn that because of the second column, Penny and her family did catch December's blue moon, as well as the Leonid showers.

We hear now of the digital divide, the different degrees of access to the new information and communication technologies. But Penny's letter reminds us these technologies have built-in potentials for bridging the gaps. Just think about what happened to Bontoc. I'd pieced together news from the local Pagasa office and various Internet sites, packaging them into a column which Penny gets to read in Bontoc.

There's a slight delay here: the day's papers get to Bontoc in the afternoon, so reading the INQUIRER is an evening ritual there. But maybe it's just as well because reading the papers then flows into another ritual for Penny, calling her children in Baguio and Manila on the cell phone and discussing the day's news. She tells me she got to alert her kids to the meteor showers.

It's amazing, when you think about how fast the technologies have developed. It was only a hundred years ago—Dec. 12, 1901 to be exact—when we had our first long distance wireless transmission. Guglielmo Marconi, an Italian engineer, developed the technology that allowed someone in Britain to transmit three clicks—Morse code for the letter "s"—to Canada, a distance of 3,000 kilometers. That paved the way for radio, television and all the miracles we have today for keeping in touch.

Comments are welcome at miguel@pinoykasi.com



PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

GMA-7 airs side on Valdes resignation

RINA Jimenez-David in her column last Jan. 24, 2002 referred to a suit filed by GMA-7 against Luchi Cruz-Valdes and compared this with the case of Mel Tiangco and Jay Sonza. Although this case is pending in court and therefore subject to the *sub judice* rule, in the interest of fairness and truth, allow us to clarify the issues:

Valdes' case is very different from the case of Tiangco and Sonza. Unlike Valdes, Tiangco and Sonza had resigned from ABS-CBN before they joined GMA. They were not pirated and offered higher salaries to move to GMA.

Valdes did not ask permission to resign. On Oct. 15, 2001, she in-

formed vice president/head of news and public affairs Marissa Flores, her immediate superior, that "she was resigning effective Nov. 15, 2001 because she was being pirated." She said she was offered P350,000 and was given the position of vice president for news (which is a major leap from her position as production unit manager in GMA).

Valdes joined ABS-CBN knowing fully well that she had an existing contract with GMA. According to Flores, she volunteered the information that she told ABS-CBN she had a contract but she was assured that ABS-CBN would help her.

GMA continued to pay Valdes

her talent fees until Nov. 15, 2001, the date of her resignation. Her claim that she can continue to perform her talent duties in GMA programs while continuing to run the news department at ABS-CBN, GMA's direct competitor, is preposterous. "In the words of one of our executives, 'This can be likened to being a coach of one team and a player in the competitor's team.'" While performing the role of a talent of GMA News and Public Affairs, and continuing to have access to information about GMA network, she claims she can still work as the head of news of GMA's direct competitor, ABS-CBN. Will this be palatable to ABS-CBN?

As production unit manager for news, Valdes had access to news scripts, documents, confidential information. Prior to her resignation, she attended strategic planning sessions which discussed highly confidential matters. No company will allow its competitor to get hold of its trade secrets. GMA has to protect itself and has no other recourse but to stop giving her assignments.

ABS-CBN has been pirating GMA talents. We at GMA will no longer allow ABS-CBN to continue this unethical practice and blatant violation of contracts.—**CARMENCITA G. ARCE, vice president for corporate affairs, GMA-7**

Foreign business looks kindly at GMA

WE went on a business trip to Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok last December, had six business meetings in those places, and wish to report on the general perception of the businessmen in these countries.

We noticed the change in their perception of our government under President

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the political stability that have ensued. Their general impression of Ms. Macapagal is one who is in control unlike President Megawati of Indonesia who needs to be propped up by other politicians. They also look at her as a good communicator with good economic directions. They also

see her as hard-working and sincere in her efforts to be a good President. These businessmen are however still apprehensive coming to the Philippines due to reported rampant kidnappings.

The purpose of the business trip was to secure better credit terms on imports from these countries.

The responses have been positive unlike the past year when we had to pay via telegraphic transfer before the goods were shipped. The companies we deal with are medium-sized and quite conservative in their business dealings.

Personally, despite all the noise that we get from TV, radio and

print media, we feel the President has the support of the true nation-loving civil society, the professional military and the Philippine National Police, the churches, academe and the committed business sectors. The needs of the youth and the poor masses will eventually be met if she musters the support of different sectors of our

society. We wish the government can establish closer working relationships with these sectors, and the people who can best help are Cabinet members and heads of government agencies.

We recently read an article of Raul Concepcion regarding the need for the President to be a charismatic leader. True, but in the meantime what do we do? It goes without saying that as citizens we are her people and she is our leader. She has the disadvantage of not having the mandate through election but she's a President who has good economic sense that we can capitalize on by providing the support she needs so she can gain more confidence in decision-making which in turn will develop further her leadership qualities.—**GEORGE U. LORENZANA, Unit 403 Renaissance Tower, Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City**

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NFA union also seeks farmers' welfare

REP. Ben Cruz (Buil Party List) is hurting. He probably thinks we were alluding to him when we mentioned a farmer-leader who has the ears of the President in a statement signed by almost a hundred peasant groups and allied organizations.

Cruz got so incensed that he is now engaging in a media barrage against our association. He even delivered on Jan. 16, 2002 a scathing privilege speech in Congress accusing us, among other things, of colluding with the rice cartel in shortchanging our people on the issue of rice.

We do not want to pick a fight with him. We are just ordinary employees; and most of us are scared to face someone like him. But we hope to clarify some of the points he has made in his speech and before the media.

Firstly, we hope the representative of the lowly farmers will specify how the National Food Authority incurred losses amounting to P26 billion a year due to "anti-consumer and economically wasteful restrictions on agricultural products." Do such losses include government subsidies to farmers when the NFA buys their produce when the traders' prices are low? Does he want that we just leave the farmers at the mercy of the traders? He ought to know better. The records show that only an average of P1.2 billion a year for rice subsidy has been given by Congress to the NFA during the period 1995 to 2001.

Secondly, Cruz accused the NFA union of being corrupt and colluding with the rice cartel just because we oppose House Bill 3339 which he is sponsoring. We challenge him to prove his charges.

Thirdly, he took us to task for "going against the will of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and deceiving farmers by fighting the President's direct directives to liberalize rice importation and remove quantitative restrictions on rice." Well, if we believe the President's directive goes against the interest of the people, then we should at the very least present our objections. If we were to follow his line of thinking, we should not have opposed the dictatorship of Marcos and we should not have opposed the twisted policies and practices of Erap because they were presidents. No wonder the congressman, even as he claimed to be a farmer-leader, never spoke against Marcos and Erap. He was, in fact, a Marcos boy.

Fourthly, with regard to his dream of making the farmers entrepreneurs by allowing them to import the product they themselves produce, we need not dwell on the absurdity of such an idea. We suggest instead that he start honing the business acumen and capabilities of the farmers to engage in the highly demanding importation business.

Finally, the congressman misreads us. We do not want to condemn the farmers to their present situation. In fact, we are fighting for their well-being and their eventual liberation from poverty and want. That is why we are fighting anti-farmer measures such as those that would create a deluge of agricultural imports, even if these come from a President. Much more if they are the idea of a congressman.—**ROMAN M. SANCHEZ, national president, National Food Authority Employees Association, Quezon City**

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The WORLD

Luvern B. Gueco, Editor

WORLD BRIEFS

Grim search for dead

CUMBAL, Colombia—Rescuers who reached the wreckage of an airliner that crashed into a glacier-capped Colombian volcano found shards of metal, tattered clothing, photographs and burned money, but no sign of survivors. Colombian troops guided by peasant farmers trekked to the chilly, fog-shrouded peak Tuesday, but there was scant hope that any of the 92 people aboard the downed Ecuadorean airliner had survived. The TAME airlines Boeing 727-100 slammed into the 4,716-meter Nevado de Cumbal volcano Monday morning. Fog and freezing temperatures on the Andean peak allowed only a brief investigation of the site, just over the Colombian border from Ecuador. The search for bodies—and the black box, or flight data recorder—was to begin in earnest Wednesday. **AP**

Anger at military

LAGOS, Nigeria—Sadness turned to rage against the military about a string of explosions at a huge arms cache set in the middle of a crowded Lagos neighborhood. The blasts and resulting panic left at least 600 dead. Distraught families searching for missing loved ones blamed the military for storing weapons, including rockets and heavy artillery shells, in the northern Ikeja neighborhood. The governor of Lagos state charged the Army with negligence. "The Army uses money to buy weapons that kill us," yelled David Eyetse after emerging from a mortuary in the area's main hospital, where he had just found the body of his 19-year-old brother, Henry. Many Nigerians remain distrustful of the military following 15 years of corrupt and sometimes brutal dictatorship that ended with 1999 elections. **AP**

Deadly European gales

LONDON—As the death toll from the gales that battered northern Europe and Russia rose to 18 on Tuesday, rescue workers found a lone climber who had managed to survive a night of 225 kph winds on a Scottish mountain. During a storm that tore off roofs, toppled trucks on highways, disrupted shipping, and left thousands of homes without power, climber Peter Deacon, 38, said he only remained alive because he had heard about the approaching storm on his portable radio and found his way to a stone hut. Such huts, known as "bothies" in the Cairngorms mountain range, were once the homes of poor families and their domestic animals long ago, but are now used to shelter the area's many climbers. Deacon, who had traveled to Scotland from England, said he was several thousand feet up Lairig An Laoigh mountain when he sought refuge. **AP**

Hunger strike ends

SYDNEY—A two-week hunger strike by asylum seekers at a remote Outback detention center for illegal immigrants was declared over Wednesday after government negotiators convinced detainees their refugee claims would be processed. "The hunger strike at Woomera has been abandoned," Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock said. He said the government's Immigration Detention Advisory Group had assured detainees that those involved in the hunger strike would not be disadvantaged when their claims were being considered. **AP**

Afghans protest capture of officials in US raid

KABUL—As US President George W. Bush vowed to hunt terrorists across the globe, Afghan authorities were seeking explanations from the US military over the holding of 27 prisoners seized last week in a Special Forces raid.

The Afghans claim that those taken into custody include anti-Taliban officials loyal to interim leader Hamid Karzai's new government, among them the district police chief, his deputy and members of the district council.

The pre-dawn raid has emerged as one of the most controversial operations since the US military shifted gears from forcing the collapse of the Taliban regime to the hunt for surviving pockets of al-Qaida and Taliban fighters.

The Pentagon insists that Special Forces attacked a legitimate

military target in the raid on an ammunition dump that intelligence analysts believed al-Qaida or Taliban forces were using.

US troops killed 15 or 16 people and took 27 other prisoners after gunmen opened fire on them, the Pentagon said. One American soldier was wounded in the ankle.

Local Afghans have insisted that by the time the Special Forces arrived, Taliban renegades had handed over the weapons to pro-government figures, some of whom were among the dead.

A spokesperson for Gov. Gul

Agha in the southern city of Kandahar said Tuesday that the US military had promised to begin releasing some of the detainees in a few days. At the US base in Kandahar, Army spokesperson Capt. Tony Rivers declined comment.

Yusuf Pashtun, Agha's spokesperson, said the Americans had been asked for "clarification" of the detainees' status and the reasons they were being held.

Karzai says he will send a delegation to investigate the raid, which occurred in Uruzgan province—where he organized resistance to the Taliban before the Islamic militia collapsed last year following intense US bombing and attacks by the Northern Alliance.

Wearing his trademark green cape, the Afghan leader was a guest of honor in Washington and was applauded by Congress as he sat next to first lady Laura Bush for the president's State of the Union speech.

Offering chilling evidence of terrorists' plotting, Bush said US forces in Afghanistan had found diagrams of American nuclear power plants hidden in terrorist hide-outs.

Karzai said that he would rebuild Afghanistan by drawing armed men loyal to regional leaders into a national Army, then giving them labor-intensive work like building highways. But Karzai insisted that Afghanistan could only begin to recover with immediate cash assistance. **AP**

Japanese foreign minister steps down

TOKYO—Japan's foreign minister, the country's top female official, quit her post Wednesday, easing friction within the ruling party but distracting lawmakers from the economic reforms pledged—but not yet fully delivered—by the prime minister.

The resignation also threatens to punch a hole in the government's soaring approval rating, which was largely bolstered by the popular appeal of outspoken, straight-talking Makiko Tanaka.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi swept to power last year, appointing a record high five

women as his top deputies, including Tanaka as foreign minister.

The move was seen as a payback to Tanaka, a former prime minister's daughter, for throwing her massive voter support behind Koizumi's election bid.

The appointment was also seen as foreshadowing the progressive overhaul Koizumi pledged for Japan's back room, old-boy government style.

Tanaka's successor has yet to be chosen. But Koizumi is reportedly putting out feelers to former UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata, who recently chaired a global conference in Tokyo on Afghan reconstruction aid. **AP**

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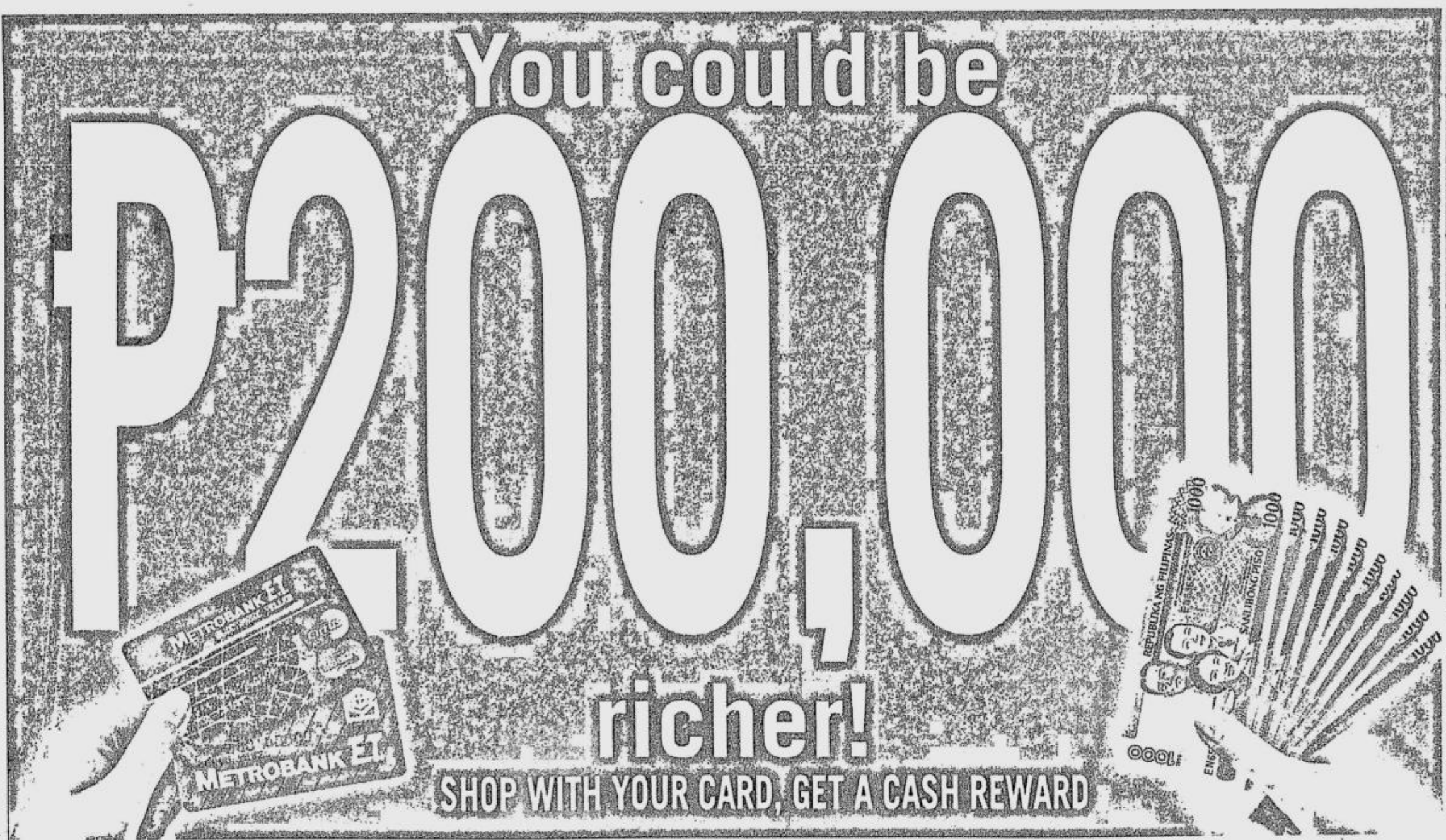
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Palestinian suicide bomber wounds Israeli agents



AN ISRAELI border police officer monitors Jaffa Street, site of this week's bombing attack, from the rooftop of a building.

JERUSALEM—A Palestinian suicide bomber threw himself on an Israeli vehicle parked close to the border with the West Bank, wounding two members of Israel's Shin Bet security service who were sitting inside Wednesday, police said.

The attack took place under a bridge near the Israeli town of Taibe, about 100 meters from a checkpoint that separates Israel from the Palestinian town of Tulkarem in the West Bank.

A statement from Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office, which is responsible for the Shin Bet, said the injured agents were on "an operational mission" when they were attacked and that further details of the incident were being investigated.

The latest bombing came a day after Israeli security officials pre-

sented Sharon with a plan aimed at tightening security in Jerusalem, the scene of two deadly Palestinian attacks in the past week, but there was no immediate decision whether to adopt the measures.

Frequent attacks in Jerusalem have led to calls to both tighten the closure that keeps most West Bank Palestinians out of the city and also find a way to limit the access of Palestinians in east Jerusalem to the city's Jewish western side.

The latter concept is politically delicate in Israel, since it annexed east Jerusalem shortly after seizing it in the 1967 Mideast war and claims the entire city as its capital. The Palestinians claim east Jerusalem as their capital of a future state.

Any division would also pose logistical complications, since Is-

rael has built Jewish neighborhoods all around the eastern sector, where about 200,000 Jews live—a number about equal to the city's Palestinian population. Creating a clean dividing line would be virtually impossible.

Security experts on Tuesday offered Sharon a plan that includes patrols, fences, and checkpoints, and the Haaretz daily and Israel TV said that the national security council chief, Maj. Gen. Uzi Dayan, proposed building a wall 11 km long.

But in a statement, Sharon opposed any physical division and said "the plan must be treated as a whole, covering the Jewish and Arab neighborhoods alike." He said it would include some Arab villages which fall under Palestinian civilian but Israeli security control.

AP

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Journal appeals to kidnappers

NEW YORK—Frustrated by two days of silence since learning reporter Daniel Pearl had been taken hostage in Pakistan, the Wall Street Journal appealed to the abductors by e-mail for his release.

In the six-paragraph message, Managing Editor Paul Steiger said Pearl was a professional journalist "in Pakistan to provide objective coverage of ongoing events," and rejected the kidnappers' allegation that he was secretly working for the CIA.

"Danny Pearl has no ability to change the policies of the US government or the government of Pakistan. Nor do I," Steiger wrote. "Therefore I would ask that you release Danny so that he may return home to his wife and soon-to-be-born child."

The message was transmitted Monday to the address from which a flurry of e-mails had come over the weekend to various US news organizations confirming that Pearl had been taken hostage four days earlier.

They included four photos of Pearl in custody, one showing him with a gun to his head, and a list of demands including better treatment for Pakistanis held with other terrorist suspects by US authorities at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Using a free e-mail service, the group identified itself as the National Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty. But Pakistani authorities said Pearl was most likely being held by a known radical Muslim faction linked to the al-Qaida terrorist organization.

Steiger said in his message that he "looked forward to hearing further on this matter so that we can coordinate Danny's safe and timely release. I encourage you to correspond with me further through this e-mail address."

AP

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Thursday, January 31, 2002
3rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 S 7:18-19, 24-29
Gospel: Mk 4:21-25

Jesus said to the crowd, "When the light comes, is it to be put under a tub or a bed? Surely it is put on a lampstand. Whatever is hidden will be disclosed, and whatever is kept secret will be brought to light. Listen then, if you have ears!"

And he also said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear. In the measure you give, so shall you receive and still more will be given to you. For to the one who produces something, more will be given, and from him who does not produce anything, even what he has will be taken away from him."

Commentary

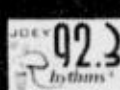
Jesus encourages his disciples to share with other members of the community what they have learned from him. The Gospel and the truth are not for just a few privileged ones but for all people of God, and so for all humankind. A sense of mission and involvement are expected from us. Quite often we consider that our goal as Christian is just to BE good. Not exactly; our goal is to DO good. We cannot keep the light just for us, under a bed, but we must place it on a lamp stand. "For him who produces something, more will be given," is an exhortation to get involved. Christian communities shine bright and become alive when its members have a strong sense of mission and are leaven to transform persons and structures, in their neighborhood, nation and beyond.

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SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES



CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Nocturnity—The aggravating circumstance of nocturnity could not be considered for the simple reason that it was not specifically sought in the commission of the crime. Nighttime becomes an aggravating circumstance only when (1) it is specially sought by the offender; (2) the offender takes advantage of it; or (3) it facilitates the commission of the crime by insuring the offender's immunity from identification or capture. In the case at bar, no evidence suggests that accused purposely sought the cover of darkness to perpetrate the crime, or to conceal his identity. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Pardo, People v. Cortes, G.R. No. 137050, July 11, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera

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Across the NATION

Tony Bergonia, Assistant Editor

'Bribe attempt' in HK Triad case probe

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Central Visayas State Prosecutor Hernando Masangkay has ordered an investigation into an alleged attempt by two lawyers to bribe a city prosecutor handling a drug case involving suspected Hong Kong Triad members.

But Assistant City Prosecutor Mary Ann Roa Castro, the subject of the

bribe try, was also charged by one of the two lawyers as the one who demanded P150,000 in exchange for her "cooperation."

On Monday, Castro exposed the two bribery attempts allegedly made by lawyers Pedro Leslie Salva and Gines Abellana, both members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines city chapter.

Castro is one of the three government prosecutors handling the drug case against Giovannie 'Nanan' Jimenez, his brother Jovan and Victor Ceniza, suspected members of the Hong Kong Triad drug syndicate.

The three were arrested on Sept.

7 last year in Barangay Kasambagan here on board a van. Police seized 337.97 grams of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) from the vehicle.

Salva represents the three suspects, while Abellana, who claimed no interest in the case, was reportedly the lawyer of a relative of the Jimenezes.

Castro revealed that shortly before Christmas, Salva went to her house and offered her P50,000 in cash if she "goes easy" on his clients.

She said the money bundles were placed inside a black bag.

But Castro said she refused the of-

fer as her name and reputation could not be bought.

On Friday, Castro said lawyer Abellana went to her office and also asked her to go easy on the case. He also asked her not to oppose the suspects' motion for bail, the prosecutor said.

Castro said that when Abellana was about to leave her office, he placed a white envelope on her table. She said the envelope contained P10,000 in P1,000 bills.

Castro said she tried to pursue Abellana outside her office, but the lawyer was already gone.

She said she immediately reported

the incident to acting City prosecutor Jose Pedrosa who, in turn, ordered her to return the money to the lawyer.

Abellana vehemently denied giving money to Castro, saying he had no interest in the case and did not know the three suspects.

He also denied visiting Castro on Friday but admitted that he tried to see her sometime last week for another matter.

Salva, for his part, accused Castro of being the one who demanded P150,000 from his clients.

Castro, Salva claimed, called him up sometime in December and invited him to go to her house. He said

he was surprised when Castro demanded from him P150,000 as she could allegedly help ensure that the case against his clients would be dismissed.

Salva said he informed his clients about the alleged demand, but they, he said, could not come up with the amount.

Castro denied Salva's claim. She said the alleged attempt to bribe her only gave her courage to pursue the case against the three suspects.

On Tuesday, Masangkay ordered Pedrosa to act immediately on the allegations of Castro and the two lawyers.

Garbage recycling center inaugurated in Pangasinan

CALASIAO, Pangasinan—This town is the first among province's 44 towns to solve the growing garbage disposal problem through the establishment of the Calasiao Ecological Center where garbage are segregated and processed.

The 600-square-meter center in Barangay Malabago has areas for segregation and processing of trash, and for training of residents on waste management.

Established through a P3-million loan from the Land Bank of the Philippines, the center was inaugurated on Monday by Pangasinan Rep. Generoso Tulagan and Mayor Roy Macanalalay.

The facility has a hammer mill to grind biodegradable wastes and four tanks where the wastes are composted for a week. The composted wastes are then strained and can be used as organic fertilizer.

"We will have the composted waste analyzed for the nutrient contents. If these are not enough, we will add the necessary nutrients," Carlito Dion, head of the town's solid waste management monitoring board, said.

The organic fertilizer will be sold to the town's farmers at a subsidized rate, while the non-biodegradable wastes will be sold to junk shops.

Jose Almendares, provincial agriculturist, said the program would boost the province's organic farming program, under which the use

of organic fertilizer has been increased by 60 percent during the past years.

Tulagan commended local officials "for their environmental concern and commitment in solving the current garbage problem in the community."

The ecological center and the waste collection scheme were patterned after the system adopted by residents of Bued Village here where households are asked to segregate their garbage.

Dion, Bued barangay chair, said members of the Bued Eco-care, a people's organization, trained the village residents to manage their garbage.

"Those with enough land space were asked to dig a pit where biodegradable materials could be dumped and covered with soil, while we collect the garbage of the households without compost pits. We have a schedule for collection of the biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes," Dion said.

The Coca-Cola Calasiao plant also donated waste segregators to Bued residents.

The Calasiao local government hoped to duplicate what the village officials and the residents did in Bued.

Members of the Eco-care, mostly school-teachers, have started to train households in Barangay Poblacion and market vendors on how to segregate their garbage. **Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

Cagayan lacks priests

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Rich or poor, Cagayano parents should encourage their sons to enter priesthood due to the lack of priests in Cagayan, church officials said.

They said the 49 parishes in the five vicariates in the province had only 73 priests and were still short of the number needed to attend to the spiritual needs of parishioners.

They noted that the new priests were not only "good looking" and eloquent but could also deliver entertaining homilies.

"Give your best son to the service of the Lord," a newly ordained priest here told parishioners in a recent homily.

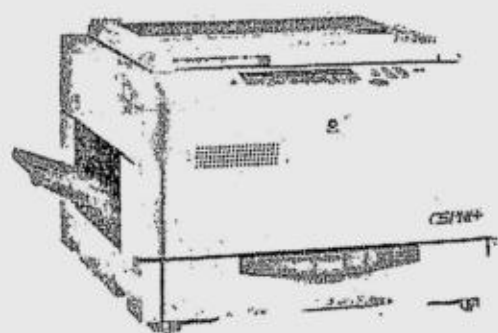
He said he observed that parents encouraged only their sons whom they thought were not brilliant and not good looking to enter priesthood. **Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern and Eastern Luzon and the rest of the Eastern section of the country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy.

SOURCE: PAGASA		
Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 21°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 23° Lo 12°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 20°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 27° Lo 16°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 20°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 21°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/01/31/02

ROUNDUP

6,072 logs seized

LUCENA CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Quezon recovered 6,072 pieces of alleged illegally cut logs in northern Quezon late last year. The forest products, measuring a total of at least 39,086 board feet, were seized during an anti-illegal logging operation dubbed Oplan GMA or "Gawing Malinis ang Agus." Armando Rotaquio, DENR Quezon chief, said the team that swooped down on communities along the Agus River on the slope of the Sierra Madre, also seized two Fuso engines, six band saw blades and two vehicle batteries. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

3 Huk leaders charged

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Three alleged leaders of the Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan of the old Communist Party of the Philippines were charged with extortion before a Pampanga court on Monday. Police said Rodolfo Calino, Enrique Cayanan and Francisco Guyanay of the HMB's Tomas Calma Unit have not posted bail and are detained at the San Simon municipal jail. The three were arrested Friday while allegedly collecting "revolutionary taxes" from poultry raisers. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Marijuana seller convicted

BAGUIO CITY—A woman was sentenced to 40 years in prison for selling 20 marijuana bricks in a buy-bust operation in March 2000. Judge Ruben Ayon of the regional trial court here also fined Victoria Collantes, of La Trinidad, Benguet, P500,000 after she was caught trying to sell 134 kilos of marijuana. The marijuana was contained in two traveling bags that were supposed to be delivered to a police agent posing as buyer in a hotel here. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Man kills grandma

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—A 98-year-old woman was killed by her allegedly drug-crazed grandson in Barangay Casat here on Monday. Police said Ricarda Valdez died from blows in the head allegedly inflicted by her grandson, Villamor Daquiel, 32, with a tree branch. Virgie de la Cruz, 24, the suspect's sister, said Daquiel suddenly entered the room where she, her three children and the victim were staying, and without provocation, attacked their grandmother. Police arrested and jailed Daquiel here. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

'Sarung Bangui' fest

STO. DOMINGO, Albay—This town will hold its first "Sarung Bangui" festival in May, but unlike other Bicol festivals, it will highlight musical activities, according to Mayor Herbie Aguas. The festival will also pay tribute to Potenciano Gregorio, writer of the famous Bicol song "Sarung Bangui." It will feature a search for Miss Sarung Bangui. Aguas said the Sarung Bangui Association, an organization of town residents, is helping in the preparations for the festivity. *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Guns, ammo recovered

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—Army soldiers recovered several firearms from an abandoned communist rebel camp in Sitio Naitan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, the military's Southern Luzon Command said. Maj. Gerard Velez, Solcom spokesman, said soldiers of the 18th Scout Ranger Company retrieved a shotgun, two 22 cal. revolvers, assorted magazines and bullets, and communist documents. A New People's Army group led by Ka Ogie and Ka Rowel left the items behind, a report said. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Solcom civic action

LUCENA CITY—The military's Southern Luzon Command last year conducted a total of 6,644 military civic actions, mostly medical missions, benefiting at least 244,034 persons and 65,841 families. Maj. Gerard Velez, Solcom spokesman, said the command was also involved in anti-illegal logging activities in Bicol and Southern Tagalog, confiscating at least 74,727 board feet of illegally cut logs worth P3.7 million. The Solcom personnel also planted 23,482 seedlings. *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Improved cargo service

DUMAGUETE CITY—Businessmen will appreciate an improved cargo handling facility at the city port more than a new ferry terminal that is being pushed by the Philippine Ports Authority despite strong objections from various groups. Benjamin Calderon, executive director of the Negros Oriental Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said his group urgently needed a more efficient cargo handling service at the port. At present, he said, the port had become so small for the province's cargo traffic that ships had to drop anchor and stay out at sea for hours or days because of little space there. *Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

MINING DISASTER

Marinduque victims also demand justice

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BOAC, Marinduque—Monsignor Senen Malapad, head of the Catholic Church here, yesterday said it was not enough that President Macapagal-Arroyo seek compensation for victims of the worst mining disaster that hit this island-province six years ago.

"The demand by the people of Marinduque is not solely confined to the issue of financial compensation. What the people need is justice," Malapad told the INQUIRER.

"What about the deteriorating health of the victims, the rehabilitation of our rivers and the continuing environmental degradation caused by the disaster? What we are facing here is perpetual threat of imminent danger brought (about) by the effect of the mine spill," he said.

The President, who arrived in Canada yesterday from London on the second leg of an eight-day trip to Britain, Canada and the United States, has been reported as pursuing a Canadian firm for the compensation of the affected people of Marinduque.

She had reportedly given orders to speed up negotiations to claim payment for damages from the Placer Dome, a Canadian-based mining company.

The company owned 40 percent of Marcopper Mining Co. which, in 1996, spilled up to 300 million tons of mine tailings into the Boac River and Calancan Bay in Marinduque.

Placer Dome reportedly could be made to pay up to \$13 million based on early estimates of the amount needed to bring back the river and the bay to life.

Disregard

Malapad pointed out that what added to their anxiety was the hasty exit of Placer Dome from the country last December.

He chided Ms Macapagal for her alleged continuous disregard of the people's voice. "It seems that she did not learn her lessons in Edsa II."

He recalled that a group of Marinduqueños visited the President in Malacañang on Jan. 23 to appeal for her help. "But she did not have time for us. We were told that she was busy."

The group brought with them a postcard with a photo of children posing along the "dead" Mogpog River to remind the President of the sorry plight of the islanders.

It also brought three bottles of bluish water from the rivers with the label "Marcopper Water: Toxic" as a symbol of the current state of Marinduque's main river systems which have been poisoned by Marcopper mining.

"If she only spared us some time, prob-



MARCOPPER'S mining field.

FILE PHOTO

ably she would know the true sentiments of the people of Marinduque who were not after the money of Placer Dome," Malapad lamented.

He and other non-government environmental group leaders also hit Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez for issuing a "double-edged" call with his sustainable mining concept.

"The sustainable mining concept of Secretary Alvarez has no place in Marinduque. Any kind of mining is forever banned in the island," the Catholic leader stressed.

Compensation

Alvarez, a member of the President's official delegation, was quoted as saying the compensation was aimed not just at giving justice to the people of Marinduque but also at restoring confidence in mining based on a sustainable development concept.

For the legal group assisting the people of Mogpog, Alvarez' argument is a "sell-out."

Rina Corpuz, officer-in-charge of the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center-Kasama sa Kalikasan-Luzon Office, said Alvarez delivered a "poorly defined agenda" in behalf of the people.

She said these people had "not seen an iota of justice" and continued to suffer the damage inflicted by Marcopper and Placer Dome for more than 30 years of mining in the province.

She said Alvarez's "encouraging words to the mining industry of Canada" only showed how he missed out on the history of large foreign mining firms in the Philippines which claim to uphold "sustainable develop-

ment."

Corpuz also revealed that the people of Mogpog had never been compensated for the damage and up to now had been suffering from fish kills, skin and health diseases, and the degradation of their flora and fauna with the collapse of the mining company's Maguilaguila siltation dam in 1993.

Marcopper-Placer Dome officials continued to justify to the people that the collapse of their dam was an "act of God," she said.

"This same dam was recently declared in imminent danger of causing loss of lives based on the Kohn Crippen report commissioned by the mining company itself. Up to this day, Marcopper and Placer Dome have not admitted their accountability," she said.

No celebration

She stressed that it is not yet time for the Marinduque community and its supporters to celebrate even with the President and the DENR secretary lobbying for compensation for the Marcopper mining disaster in Canada.

Greenpeace, an international environmentalist group, said Alvarez's statement was "pure rhetoric."

"The government should first show that it could make polluters take responsibility for their pollution before anything else. It's the people who are punished not the companies," Red Constantino, campaigner for Greenpeace Southeast Asia, said in a statement.

With the uncertain fate brought by the worst mine disaster that altered the island's natural environmental landscape some six years ago, Marinduqueños are

now indignant over the alleged "escape" of the culprit behind their present environmental woes.

Greg Pedernal, official of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement-Marinduque Chapter, has alleged that the Placer Dome had already abandoned its commitment to rehabilitate the destroyed area.

The Placer Dome local office at Barangay Murrallon here has been closed effective Dec. 16 last year.

Pedernal said at least 90 employees of Placer Dome had been terminated and the workers' separation pay had already been paid since December.

"What remains are a skeleton staff of some 20 people led by Ralph Ante, Marcopper resident manager," he said. "But they are not capable of fulfilling the responsibilities left by Placer Dome."

He said that what this skeleton staff usually does is maintenance work.

He accused company officials of renegeing on its earlier pledge to undertake the rehabilitation of the Mogpog and Boac rivers, among many other pledges made by company officials after the disasters.

Pedernal disclosed that a group from Maricalum Mining in Visaya—reportedly owned by one Teodoro Bernardino, one of the biggest shareholders in Marcopper—was reported to be undertaking the rehabilitation of the damage brought by the mine disaster.

"But we doubt its competence and efficiency to do the job. I understand they also have records of dumping mine tailings," he said.

Mining Watch Canada, in an e-mailed statement, also denounced the operation of Placer Dome in the Philippines.

The group said it condemned the record of the company as well as another Vancouver-based company, Crew Development Corp., which is currently involved in mineral exploration in Mindoro.

"The record of Canadian mining companies abroad has appropriately earned it the moniker 'the ugly Canadian,'" said the statement.

In a resolution, the Blue Marlin Fishersfolk Federation, a group of local fishermen organizations has appealed to government officials not to allow Placer Dome to escape from its responsibility.

The PRRM is pushing for full payment of the compensation for damages to affected families and the immediate cleanup and rehabilitation of the Boac River system but not through "submarine tailings disposal."

It also called for the complete rehabilitation of affected communities and environments and the permanent closure of mine operations and conversion of the site into an economic employment area.

Fire hits Mandaue market; P100M lost

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Property worth over P100 million were destroyed yesterday in a two-hour fire that hit the Mandaue City public market, a building of St. Joseph Academy and a portion of the St. Joseph Shrine at dawn yesterday.

The Mandaue fire department is still investigating the cause of the fire. One of the market vendors claimed it started in one of the food stalls.

Authorities received the alarm at around 3:30 a.m. and declared the fire under control at 6 a.m.

Mandaue Mayor Tadeo Ouano said 75 percent of the two-story public

market was destroyed.

It also damaged a three-story building of the adjoining St. Joseph Academy and a portion of the St. Joseph Shrine, the parish church of Mandaue.

The market, which occupies 1.5 hectares of land, was built only four years ago at a cost of P52 million.

City engineer Seferino Ingles said rebuilding could reach P100 million, citing that prices of construction materials have doubled.

Millions of pesos worth of goods and products of the 900 vendors in the market were also destroyed.

Ingles said the market would be closed pending an inspection to determine if the remaining building structure was still sound.

Ouano ordered the closure to traffic of Zamora Street in front of the market so that the vendors can occupy it as temporary vending area.

St. Monserrat Agcaoli, directress of the St. Joseph Academy, said the blaze damaged between P20 million and P30 million worth of school property.

The fire destroyed the second and third floors of the academy's old building. The floors had 23 classrooms occupied by elementary and high school students.

Agcaoli said the fire also gobbled a portion of school library and the nuns' quarter.

Classes in all levels at the academy were suspended yesterday.

Fr. Pat Ornopia of the St. Joseph Shrine said the fire damaged the altar.

American killed in Pampanga ambush

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—An American was killed while a Dutch and several Filipino motor bikers from Angeles City were wounded on Wednesday when they were ambushed by armed men at the foothills of Mt. Pinatubo in Porac, Pampanga, police said.

Senior Supt. Ismael Rafanan, provincial police director, identified the fatality as Bryan Smith and the injured as Siegfried Whitman.

According to Rafanan, it was Whitman who called the police to report the ambush which, he said, occurred at around 3 p.m. on the volcano's western side.

Whitman, who reached Rafanan through his mobile phone, said he was badly wounded and that Smith was killed and several of their Filipino companions were hurt.

He said they motored from Porac and

from there walked for two hours to the volcano through the mountains of Floridablanca town, also in Pampanga.

Rafanan said Whitman, who was still traumatized by the incident, did not give details about their attackers.

He did not rule out the role of New People's Army rebels, saying they continued to maintain strongholds in the Zambales mountain area where Pinatubo is located.

It was not yet known how long Smith and Whitman had lived in Angeles. No details were available yet on the injured Filipinos.

Rafanan said Whitman's group had asked for a helicopter to fetch them in Floridablanca.

In a related development, two teams from the Philippine Air Force and the police scoured the western foothills of Mt. Pinatubo to confirm reports by a tour op-

erator for visiting United States soldiers that an American was missing in the area since Wednesday noon.

Maj. Allan Ballesteros, public information officer of the Air Force's 600th Air Base Wing in Clark, confirmed the dispatch of an Air Force team to search for the American that was reported missing by tour operator Rene Weiss.

Supt. Pepito Pacada, Porac police chief, led another team, it was learned.

It was also Weiss who facilitated the Pinatubo tour for Lt. JG Scott Allan Washburn, a US sailor who went missing in June last year following an attack by NPA rebels.

Ballesteros said the American did not belong to the 400-member US contingent participating in the month-long Balance Piston exercise in Luzon areas.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Explosives pose storage problem for GenSan police

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Police authorities are in a dilemma over where to keep a cache of explosives they recovered from a house in Barangay Labangal here more than a week ago.

Ordinance experts said the explosives, weighing more than a ton, were more than enough to destroy the city proper.

A few days after it was seized, police wanted to turn the cache over to the local court to be used as evidence in the charges filed against Mohammad Muctan and Maulidin Malagat, owners of the house where it was found.

The court, however, refused to accept the items.

Now, Supt. George Regis, city police chief, want the explosives to be kept at the regional police headquarters in Barangay Tamber, 10 km from the city proper.

But Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, regional police chief, said his office did not have the facilities to handle such a big volume.

But Baluyot assured Regis that he would ask PNP Chief Director General Leandro Mendoza if the items could be brought to Camp Crame for safekeeping.

Regis said it would be risky to store the cache inside Camp Fermin G. Lira, considering that the camp is located right at the heart of the city.

He had asked the Army if the explosives could be brought there for safekeeping, but Col. Pedrito Magsino, 601st Army Brigade Commander, reportedly refused to take custody, saying he had yet to secure clearance from his superior. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

GMA leads seaweed culture launch in Batangas

By Mei Magsino
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
and Joel B. Escovilla
PDI Mindanao Bureau

CALATAGAN, Batangas—President Macapagal-Arroyo on Sunday led the launching of seaweed culture in the coastal village of Punta Baluarte, Hacienda de Zobel, in Calatagan, Batangas.

"I'm very happy to see that more and more fishermen have this seaweed culture as an alternative source of livelihood," Ms Macapagal told 80 fishermen and farmers who presented their fresh seaweed harvest to the President.

Seaweed culture is one of the livelihood projects included in the "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo" campaign.

Ms Macapagal also lauded the Department of Science and Technology for initiating the project.

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Eduardo Ermita, Sen. Robert Barbers, Batangas Rep. Eileen Ermita-Buhain and barangay officials accompanied Ms Macapagal.

"This will be a big boost to the food security and livelihood of the people of Calatagan," Ermita said.

"We expect more jobs and added income to the people as this project becomes highly productive and we intend to develop it further," said Ermita-Buhain.

Seaweed cultivation is a major industry in many parts of Asia. Seaweed is a source of food and fertilizer and is a source of chemicals with medicinal and industrial uses.

The government also wants to convert Southern Mindanao into one of the country's major seaweed production area.

Gil Adora, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources regional director, said attaining this vision is not difficult, considering that the region has the potentials to increase its output.

Adora disclosed the plan despite the region's "insignificant" seaweed production last year.

"Production in the region has actually reduced; we are negligible in terms of national contribution," he said.

For the whole of 2001, Southern Mindanao produced only 20 metric tons of dried Euchema, although the average harvest was about 60 tons of wet seaweed per hectare every 45 days.

A kilo of dried seaweed comes from seven kilos of wet seaweed. It sells for P25 a kilo.

Adora identified Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, the Pujada Bay in Mati, and the coastal areas of Davao Oriental as areas

that can be tapped to increase the region's seaweed production.

"We have about 15,000 hectares of potential seaweed production areas in the region," he said.

Adora said that when fully developed, these areas could create more jobs.

A hectare devoted to the culture of Euchema, which is used in producing carageenan, employs up to 15 persons.

"The processing and the marketing (phases) can employ more," he said.

Among the plans hatched by the BFAR to increase seaweed production in the region is the infusion of at least P6 million to establish nurseries.

The seedlings will be distributed free to farmers, especially the poor ones.

"Non-indigent farmers will have to pay for the seedlings, but we are preparing a credit program that they can have access to," he said.

Protestant group denounces Balikatan

From page A1

secretary general of the UCCP Council of Bishops, said its contrary stance did not mean an ideological rift with the CBCP.

"We understand (the Catholic Church)," he said. "Many of their priests were victims of the Abu Sayyaf, and they want an end to that problem. We also want an end to the problem."

But Catholic priest Fr. Robert Reyes also defied the CBCP stand and called for an intensified campaign against the US deployment.

Reyes, popularly known as the "running priest," assailed the President for "rubbing elbows" with foreign leaders despite the "disturbing presence" of US military personnel in the country.

He also expressed alarm over the supposed lack of public outcry against the US deployment, saying: "What are we waiting for? Why have we not expressed our indignation at the shameless 'Gringoization' of our land?"

Meddling

Boloco said the US government was using terrorism as "an expedient justification for furthering its geo-political interests in the Asia-Pacific region."

"A reasonable excuse it may (be), but we should never put behind our minds the truth of the past," Boloco said, reading from the three-page UCCP statement.

"We call on the US government to abstain from its meddlesome posture and respect the sovereignty of the Filipino people," he added.

Sarte said the NCCP would start its consultations on Friday to draw up a position on the Balikatan.

He said the discussions might center on the "silence" of both Malaysia and Indonesia regarding the US deployment in the Philippines.

Sarte acknowledged that the silence had serious implications on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as well as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

In Manila, Reyes said that judging from the Philippines' previous experience with the US military, there had never been a genuine Balikatan or mutual support between the two nations.

He said Filipinos had always ended up doing more for Americans, and had received nothing in return except social ills such as prostitution.

"And many years (after the US bases in Subic and Clark were closed in 1991), we owe a whopping \$90 billion," he said. "They used us, and we owe them."

Magnet

Militant students and workers marked the 32nd anniversary of the First Quarter Storm (FQS) yesterday with a rally in front of the US Embassy, warning that the country was in danger of becoming "a magnet" of terror attacks because of the US military presence.

"The President is compromising our security," said Ferdinand Gaité, national president of the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage).

Gaité described the Balikatan as "an insult to the capacity of our Armed Forces in solving our internal problems," and "an insult to our capacity to stand on our own as an independent nation."

Some 200 members of Courage, Anakbayan, the League of Filipino Students and other militant youth groups arrived at the embassy premises on Roxas Boulevard in Manila

around 11:30 a.m.

Waving red, white and blue banners, they marched shouting "US imperialist! No. 1 terrorist!" until anti-riot police blocked them.

They proceeded to burn a makeshift American flag while chanting the Filipino oath of allegiance.

Leo Angelo Lanuzo, spokesperson of Anakbayan-National Capital Region, noted that during the FQS, mass demonstrations of the youth against "US imperialism," as particularly manifested in the Vietnam War, and its "lackey (Ferdinand) Marcos" were sustained and continuous.

"This is very similar to the present national situation," he said. "The existence of the puppet regimes (continues)."

March

About 200 Mangyan and Dumagat and members of militant groups marched from Calamba City to Mendiola to protest the Balikatan.

The marchers, led by the Southern Tagalog (ST) chapters of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and Task Force Tanggol Karapatan, also warned the

President of "possible impeachment or direct expulsion from office if she continues to undermine the demands of the people."

Pastor Mel Abesamis, Bayan-ST secretary general, said that "while the military exercises will be held in Mindanao,

we should not relax our guard."

With reports from Agnes E. Donato and Philip C. Tubeza in Manila; Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Aquiles Z. Zonito and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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War games on today amid intense controversy

From page A1

"acceptable to our American counterparts."

Villanueva said the draft would become official as soon as the President returned from overseas and signed the document, but that Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster, US co-director of the exercise and commander of the 660-strong US forces participating, gave "his consent" when he arrived and met with Teodosio Tuesday.

Marcos produced a "draft" TOR, which Villanueva confirmed was the one finalized with Wurster.

Teodosio said the AFP was looking forward to the Balikatan "with much hope and optimism" that it would be "mutually beneficial."

He said the AFP was "also certain" that the conduct of the Balikatan would be a "big boost" to the capability of the military to "effectively eliminate the menace of terrorism in our land."

The other officials present at the hearing were Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, Assistant Foreign Secretary Minerva Alcon, and Ambassador Jaime Abao, executive director of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement.

Also in attendance were Elmer Cato, Yambao's predecessor, and Wigberto Tañada, convenor of the Gathering for Peace, a new coalition formed to oppose the holding of the Balikatan.

Tañada, a former senator and congressman who has opposed the Balikatan on legal grounds, said the commencement of the military exercise became more questionable in the absence of the TOR.

"This is another ground to suspect that this is not a joint military exercise but a joint military operation in Basilan," he said.

Walk-through

Teodosio said the Philippine and US panels had arrived at "a number of important terms of reference" which were now embodied in the Balikatan 02-1 Exercise Plan validated in a Jan. 26 final planning conference at the Southern Command headquarters.

"These terms of reference will be submitted for approval by our higher political authority and will be implemented jointly by the RP and US exercise co-directors under the direction of (Villanueva)," he said.

In his walk-through, Teodosio said the Balikatan would be conducted in three phases lasting for six months.

Phase 1 is a one-month preparation that began middle of this month with the arrival of the participating US forces. He said there were now 108 US forces in Zamboanga and Cebu.

Phase 2 is the actual "training and conduct of field training exercises," all of which will be completed in four months.

Phase 3 is the redeployment of troops back to their home stations starting in mid-May.

"Exercise Balikatan is expected to end sometime in June 2002," Teodosio said in a power-point presentation.

He said that at the peak of the Balikatan, a total of 660 US forces would be jointly training with 3,800 Filipino troops—160 of the Americans at the joint training command in Basilan, 250 in Mactan, Cebu, 110 at the Southcom, and 140 in Malagutay, both in Zamboanga City.

There will be a total of 10 US aircraft, including four medium and heavy helicopters in Zamboanga City and three C-130s and three medium helicopters in Cebu.

Teodosio said that of the 660 Americans "planing in and out of the country during the different phases of the exercise," 550 would consist of crew and service support personnel for US aircraft, seacraft and major equipment.

He said an "extensive force security plan" involving the Philippine National Police, local government units and other law enforcement agencies would be employed to secure the US troops.

Teodosio said a comprehensive campaign was in full swing to inform the public and to effectively respond to potential adverse reactions from any sector.

He also said:

- That the TOR included the provision that there would be no permanent US basing and support facilities,

and that US forces "shall not engage in combat operations except in self-defense."

- That Villanueva would "exercise complete control over all participating forces."

- That "US forces at all levels shall be under the control of the AFP unit commander and at no instance shall they operate independently within RP territory."

Under RP command

US Embassy spokesperson Karen Kelly said the US troops involved in the military exercise would be placed under the command of Philippine commanders, with the US officers taking the role of advisers.

"The US troops will not be involved in any combat operations," she declared.

"There is no question that the Philippine operations will be in Philippine territory and under Philippine commanders. They are in charge," Kelly quoted Admiral Dennis Blair, commander in chief of the US forces in the Pacific, as saying.

Ms Macapagal announced as much shortly before she left for her ongoing three-nation swing.

At a press briefing yesterday, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said operational control had never been a contentious issue because the Americans knew that the Balikatan would be a training exercise.

"We have no problem with that, and the Americans have no problem with that," Adan said. "It was agreed early on that... any operational matter will be decided by the Filipino commander."

Kelly said that the Balikatan would "proceed as scheduled," and that she foresaw no problem occurring during the training.

As far as funding for the "military operations" was concerned, Kelly said that on Dec. 18, the US Congress adopted a concurrent resolution acknowledging the "economic and military needs of the Philippines," and pledged to "continue to assist in addressing those needs."

The resolution, a copy of which was furnished the INQUIRER, reaffirms the special relationship between the two countries and expresses gratitude to the Philippines and its people

Marcos' 'son' tries to withdraw \$90B from bank

From page A1

false instrument, had copied a false instrument and had breached conditions of his stay in Hong Kong.

HSBC senior security manager Mark Sullivan told the court the documents that Marcos presented to the bank were bogus because the stamps were different and there were many spelling mistakes, the South China Morning Post reported.

But Marcos defended himself, saying that the alleged fake documents were given to him by his "father."

Sullivan told the court that on March 27, 2001, Marcos' representative, Karsten Kennhoff, spoke to him on the telephone and told him that he had a

power of attorney to have a gold deposit released to his (Kennhoff's) custody. Kennhoff then faxed some documents to Sullivan.

Two days later, a certain Georg Lipp met with Sullivan and gave him documents similar to those faxed by Kennhoff. Lipp had wanted to see the HSBC chair to arrange a meeting with Marcos.

According to the South China Morning Post, Sullivan asked Lipp to leave, telling him that the documents he had were fake.

This was not to be the end, however. Another set of documents was sent to the bank. It included a letter appointing Kennhoff as Marcos' authorized representative, an insurance certificate

amounting to \$54 billion, and a custodial safekeeping receipt amounting to \$36 billion.

The documents had HSBC stamps and were supposedly issued by the bank for a certain William Morales. Marcos had claimed William Morales was his encoded identity.

The court was told that HSBC did not have any record of an account in the name of William Morales.

Marcos was arrested in a hotel in Kowloon on March 31, 2001 after he was reported to the police. He arrived in Hong Kong on Feb. 19, 2001 on a visitor's visa and was allowed to stay until March 19.

The trial continues.

This was not the first time a person

had presented himself as the son of the late dictator.

Last year, Edilberto Marcos was arrested in the United States for allegedly trying to sell to an undercover Federal Bureau of Investigation agent a fake \$20-million share certificate in gold worth \$800 million supposedly stored in a Swiss bank. He was indicted in a US court on April 30.

Their "father," Ferdinand Marcos, was toppled by a popular revolt in 1986, sending him into exile in Hawaii where he died three years later.

The Philippine government claims Marcos plundered state coffers during his rule and in the early 1990s recovered about \$540 million from Swiss accounts. **With a report from AFP**

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Bush pledges to wipe out RP terror cells

From page A1

it," he added. Offering chilling evidence of terrorists' plotting, Bush said US forces in Afghanistan found diagrams of American nuclear power plants hidden in terrorist hideouts.

Boisterous applause

Bush entered the packed House chamber to boisterous applause from Republicans and Democrats alike. Seconds into his speech, he made a fist, and tapped it lightly against the podium as he declared that despite terrorism and recession, "the state of our union has never been stronger."

"We will prevail in war, and we will defeat this recession," he said in a 48-minute speech that was interrupted by applause more than 70 times.

Democrats, responding to Bush,

sought to show unity on the war while reinforcing differences on domestic policy.

House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt's words for terrorists were similar to Bush's: "Make no mistake about it: We are going to hunt you down and make you pay." But he also challenged Republican positions on Social Security, taxes and health care.

Bush urged Congress to pass his tax-cutting economic package and challenged Americans to commit two years or 4,000 hours to community service, hoping to tap the surge in patriotism since the attacks.

Amid extraordinary security, leaders of the congressional, judicial and executive branches gathered beneath the same Capitol building dome that was targeted during the attacks on Washington and New York.

Vice President Dick Cheney, who has spent many nights in undisclosed locations because of security precautions, took his traditional place on the rostrum behind the president during the speech.

In the gallery, first lady Laura Bush was joined by several guests in her VIP box high above the well of the House, including interim Afghan leader Hamid Karzai, two members of his administration, and firefighters, soldiers and other citizen-heroes whose stories helped buoy a weary nation.

"The men and women of our armed forces have delivered a message to every enemy of the United States," Bush said. "You will not escape the justice of this nation."

He said nations would be given a chance to wipe out terrorists themselves, adding the United States was

willing to assist their efforts.

But, he warned: "If they do not act, America will."

Axis of evil

In his strongest terms yet, Bush called North Korea, Iraq and Iran part of an "axis of evil," warning that their pursuit of weapons of mass destruction posed a "grave and growing danger" that would not be tolerated.

"I will not wait on events, while dangers gather. I will not stand by, as peril draws closer and closer," Bush said. "The United States of America will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world's most destructive weapons."

The 43rd US president addressed Americans with a degree of national unity conferred on no other chief executive since Franklin D.

Roosevelt during World War II. In polls, more than 80 percent of Americans say they approve of his performance.

In stark terms, Bush said intelligence gathered during the rout of Taliban and al-Qaida forces in Afghanistan demonstrated the threat still facing America.

He said the US forces stumbled upon diagrams of American nuclear power plants and public water facilities, detailed instructions for making chemical weapons, surveillance maps of US cities and descriptions of landmarks.

"What we have found in Afghanistan confirms that—far from ending there—our war against terror is only beginning," Bush said.

The 19 suicide hijackers who steered planes toward Washington and New York were a tiny fraction of

the tens of thousands of terrorists trained in Afghanistan, Bush said.

White House officials said 100,000 terrorists were trained in Afghanistan since 1979. Some 15,000 al-Qaida fighters were trained in Afghanistan since the mid-1990s.

These terrorists "are now spread throughout the world like ticking time bombs—set to go off without warning," Bush said.

The US military is spending \$30 million a day to fight terrorism, and more is needed, Bush said.

He asked Congress to increase Pentagon spending by nearly \$50 billion.

He also proposed a doubling—to \$38 billion—of spending on intelligence, military, border security, local emergency response programs and other homeland security activities. AP

Bush jab at RP as terrorist haven alarms Filipino leaders

From page A1

Washington was free to freeze the assets of groups linked with terrorism or pursue diplomatic measures.

"But some people would want to interpret it to mean that the US will impose its will, but we're a self-respecting sovereign state, and we will not allow any other country to impose its will on us if it's against our national interest," Reyes said.

Bush's speech was aired as the Philippine Congress debated the constitutionality of an RP-US training that will open today.

For the first time, the annual maneuvers will allow Americans, armed for self-defense, to enter a combat zone to assess the needs of the Filipino military fighting the Abu Sayyaf, which have been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida international terrorist network.

The Abu Sayyaf has been holding an American missionary couple and a Filipina nurse in Basilan for the past eight months.

Don't generalize

Eid Kabalu, spokesperson of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a separatist group that has signed a ceasefire deal with the Philippine government, called the Abu Sayyaf a "bandit group" and warned Bush not to generalize too much.

"Apparently, President Bush is overjoyed by their performance in Afghanistan and now wants to go into action in other areas like Mindanao," Kabalu said. "The Americans should distinguish between bandits and groups fighting for a legitimate cause," he said.

Traveling with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Ottawa, Canada, spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said: "We are totally different from Iraq and North Korea, and President Bush's statement was obviously in response to nations that have been doing nothing against terrorism."

But Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said Bush's statement "would pave the way for expanded intervention in our internal affairs."

Arrogant

"It exactly portrays the arrogant stance of the US to justify its unilateral action and intervention in other countries in the name of fighting terrorism," Ocampo said.

During the joint hearing of the House committees on foreign affairs and national defense on the military exercises in Mindanao, other legislators said Bush's threat would leave the Philip-



OTTAWA: Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo take part in a joint news conference on Parliament Hill on Tuesday.

ppines with no choice but to follow the dictates of Washington.

"I find it to be a very disturbing statement," said Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada Jr., foreign affairs committee chair, after reading the part of Bush's "post-Afghanistan battle plan."

But Defense Secretary Reyes told Lozada and other legislators that the United States could unilaterally intervene in countries that would "not object."

"(But) we're not going to do that," Reyes said. "We're not going to allow the US to impose its will on us and coerce us into doing anything against our national interest."

Reyes said the United States would pursue its national interest and the Philippines its own.

"We may allow ourselves to be

trampled upon or we stand up as a self-respecting sovereign state and that's what we will do," Reyes said.

Different from Afghanistan

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez told the committee that as spelled out by United States Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld the US had a different approach to Afghanistan compared with the Philippines.

"The Philippines is never accused of harboring international terrorists," Golez said.

Instead, he said, the United States regarded the Philippines as one of the vanguards in the fight against terrorism.

Golez said that US officials, in his discussions with them, "respected" the Philippine record of combating terrorism but acknowledged deficiencies in the Philippine military's capability.

He said the limitations could be addressed by training like the Balikatan joint military exercises with American troops.

Lozada, however, said there were conflicting signals from Rumsfeld and Bush.

Perez, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, former Sen. Wigberto Tañada and senior officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs also attended the hearing.

Friendly country

Asked by reporters, Perez said Bush's statement should not be taken as a threat or warning because the Philippines was a "friendly country" which has given its all-out support to the US-led campaign against terrorism.

"We have our own policies and we

run our country on the basis of these policies," Perez said.

Tañada and Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos echoed Lozada's worry.

Tañada said Bush's statement aggravated the concerns raised in the country about the legality, constitutionality and wisdom of Balikatan 02-1.

"This does not augur well for our country," he said.

Marcos said the statement was to be feared. "This is frightening because it tells us that America will come in whether we like it or not," she said.

"It really makes us wonder if we do not have this Balikatan, do we have a choice?" she added.

Villanueva pointed out that Bush's speech was aimed primarily at the American audience and would have no effect on Philippine policy.

Before leaving for Jakarta where he will address a conference on electricity, Ramos said Ms Macapagal should urge Bush to come to the Philippines for a state visit so he could see what the country was really like.

He even volunteered to take Bush around the country.

Ramos noted that the Philippines was the first in Asia to combat terrorism in 1995 with the uncovering of Oplan Bojinka that led to the arrest of Murad, the aviator, and Youssef, the leader and mad bomber.

He said Murad was arrested in Manila, Youssef in Islamabad and another one in Kuala Lumpur.

"(All this) happened in a space of just four months, starting early January 1995, on the eve of the visit of Pope John Paul II," he said.

Ramos said that Bush's speechwriters must not have read the report of a British journalist that paid tribute to the tight security in the Philippines that led to the calling off of the plan to assassinate then-President Bill Clinton during his visit in 1994.

"The assassination of Clinton in 1994 could not be carried out because of the tight security in our airport according to British journalist Simon Reid in his book, *The New Jackals* in 1999," the former President said.

"It seems that they have not learned from our experience," Ramos said.

He said that the country had even arrested a suspected member of the al-Qaida from Indonesia and seized a ton of explosives, 2 kilometers of detonating cord and blasting caps.

"Southwestern Philippines does not represent the country," Ramos said. With a report from AP

No info czar

In a memorandum dated Jan. 14, 2002, Ms Macapagal "clarifies" her earlier Memorandum Order No. 49, which conferred Sanchez with the powers to create and operate an information clearinghouse.

The second order made no mention of Memorandum Order No. 49's directive that "all department press releases, advertisements and other messages through the print and broadcast media shall first be coordinated with" Sanchez.

Neither did the new memorandum reaffirm that Sanchez is "authorized to call all heads of departments, agencies, bureaus, offices and instrumentalities of the government."

Memorandum Order No. 49 drew flak from several sectors who viewed it as censorship and a throwback to the practices during the martial law years when information was highly centralized.

Sanchez did little to disabuse this notion as he promptly went after Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo who raised legal questions on the buy in into San Miguel Corp. of a Japanese brewing company.

vice president for corporate communications of Philippine Airlines. The INQUIRER management attended in full force including INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto, and president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, both of whom received the awards with INQUIRER Libre editor in chief Abelardo Ulanday.

Other Gold Quill awardees include IBM Philippines, BPI, Ayala Corp., Campaigns, Advocacy and PR, Meralco, Globe Telecommunications, First Philippine Holdings and Petron Corp. With a report from Leila Salaverria

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hostages. It (the entry of US troops) is because every year, we have military exercises and (in some of these exercises), we sometimes have 4,000 American troops," the President said in reply to questions during his joint press conference with Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

Ms Macapagal's statement ran counter to Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes' earlier pronouncement in Manila.

"In the course of this joint effort, we expect the Abu Sayyaf neutralized and the hostages recovered," Reyes told reporters on Jan. 14.

Chretien said he and Ms Macapagal, who arrived here early Tuesday with a 25-strong business and political delegation, took up various issues, but the first thing he mentioned was terrorism.

Ms Macapagal said the entry of American troops was necessary in her administration's fight against the Abu Sayyaf, a terrorist network that has links with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida.

She repeated earlier statements on the role of the American soldiers.

"They will not participate in combat. They are there to teach our soldiers the latest technology in war. We have a new module that is concentrated on the battle against terrorism," she said.

Protest rally

A few hours after that meeting, a group of about 20 Filipino youths gathered in front of a hotel where the President was scheduled to address leaders of the Filipino community.

They protested Ms Macapagal's decision to allow US troops into Mindanao. Though the group was small, its chants could be heard across the hotel.

"Gloria, US puppet," the protesters shouted.

The Abu Sayyaf bandits abducted American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham along with another American and 17 Filipinos on May 27 last year from a resort in Palawan.

The Filipino hostages have either since been released or killed. Among those that the bandits killed was American Guillermo Sobero.

The bandits have eluded capture despite Philippine military claims that soldiers are closing in on the group.

Six agreements

Ms Macapagal's visit coincided with the signing of six agreements between Canada and the Philippines.

She said two of the agreements whose signing she and Chretien had witnessed could help bring peace to and reduce criminality in Mindanao.

These are an agreement for the two countries to hold a seminar on how to enforce a UN resolution stopping the smuggling of small firearms and a treaty providing a system by which the Philippines and Canada could exchange prisoners.

Another agreement is a promise by Canada to contribute \$7 million to a five-year Philippine Supreme Court program to reform the judicial system.

The rest of the agreements are on trade and exchange of information between the Philippines and Canada.

These are:
• A promise by the Canadian government to help Philippine government agencies to make full use of computer technology and the Internet in delivering services more efficiently.

• An understanding between the two countries on exchange of scholars in various fields of studies.

• A memorandum of understanding for Canada to help Philippine businessmen touch base with possible Canadian partners or markets.

Chretien said at the press conference that Canada was planning to increase aid to the Philippines, but would not provide details.

He cut short the press conference after barely five minutes.

Before the joint press conference with Chretien, the President met with Filipino community leaders in Canada.

Absentee voting

In her speech before the community leaders, shades of 2004 appeared in the horizon as Ms Macapagal made a strong pitch for the Philippine Congress to pass the absentee voter's bill.

The President said allowing Fili-

pinos overseas to vote in elections back home was one gift her administration could give migrant Filipinos, who contributed billions of dollars to the national coffers.

She said the \$6 billion that overseas Filipinos visit every year help keep the Philippine economy afloat and even surpass the amount of foreign investment that was poured into one of the biggest deals in the Philippines—the Malampaya natural gas project.

"The country should pay you back," she said. "Join me in praying that Congress pass the law (on absentee voting)," she said.

Ms Macapagal said members of the House of Representatives and the Senate had promised her that the bill would pass this year.

Dual citizenship

She also said she supported a bill that would allow migrant Filipinos to enjoy dual citizenship—they may acquire citizenship in foreign countries and remain legally Filipinos.

There are at least 300,000 Filipinos in Canada and more than half of them are of voting age under Philippine election laws. There are at least 8 million Filipinos living outside the Philippines.

The bill allowing absentee voting met strong opposition in the past from politicians, who expressed fears that it might be used by people in power to rig elections in their favor.

The absentee voting bill's provisions barely changed through the years that it was debated on. Under the bill, migrant Filipinos may write to the Commission on Elections to receive information on how to vote.

There was intense debate in the past over a proposal for votes cast by Filipinos abroad to be sent through diplomatic pouches.

Opponents said this manner of sending votes home for counting is open to all sorts of fraud, including ballot switching and other forms of cheating.

A consolidated migrant Filipino community could represent a very powerful swing vote in any national election.

Ms Macapagal had evaded questions whether she would seek election as President in 2004 at the end of her three-year term, which she inherited from Joseph Estrada, who was ousted as President near the end of his second year in office on charges of corruption.

The President arrived in Ottawa from New York on a plane owned by the Canadian government.

Well-wishers

About 50 well-wishers, mostly women wearing bulging winter coats as protection against the minus 10-degree temperature at the McDonald Airport tarmac, waved small Philippine flags and stretched their necks to take a glimpse of the diminutive President.

"There's too many tall people," a man wearing a Canadian ID among the crowd of well-wishers remarked.

The tall people were security men who accompanied the President and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

"Let's start singing Mabuhay (Long Live)," a woman said loudly while starting to sing the welcome song.

"Mabuhay, mabuhay," the woman sang, her voice losing its volume amid the loud chatter of the other well-wishers, who asked each other repeatedly who the person emerging from the plane could be.

Then a small figure stepped out of the plane's door, wearing a black winter coat.

The feeble attempt at singing "Mabuhay" finally faltered and gave way to screams. "She's here, she's here!"

Like waves parting, the tall people moved to the sides to clear the way for who could be the shortest person at the tarmac—the President.

The well-wishers ran the length of a blue cord that separated the arriving VIPs from the welcoming crowd to see the President.

"How are you?" the President said to each of those who were lucky enough to shake her hand.

The excitement was subdued as light snow started to fall on the tarmac, further bringing down the temperature to levels unbearable for those not used to it.

The encounter with the President at the airport lasted no more than 10 minutes.

In downtown Ottawa, there was hardly any trace of the excitement that the Filipino women and men at the airport had so eagerly displayed.

Newspapers in the city had no news of Ms Macapagal's arrival.

The visit was mentioned for a few seconds on local TV news.

PR donors media shy; Palace zaps info czar

From page A1

share, if any.

Cabrera also claimed on Monday that he had not been in on the decision to hire the services of B&M.

But the President's private publicist, Dante Ang, who's considered the de facto press secretary, appeared to contradict Cabrera when he also said he had nothing to do with the hiring of B&M and that he only attended one B&M presentation in the presence of Cabrera.

Ang wondered why critics are fussing over the B&M contract when the firm had been contracted even before the visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo to the United States last November.

"B&M was part of the preparations before President Macapagal went to the US last November. That's why the President appeared on CNN and she had interviews with major American publications," Ang clarified.

Anonymous help

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, who is part of the Ms Macapagal's delegation in her trip to the United Kingdom, in the United

States and Canada appeared to know who paid for B&M.

Asked who were the contributors, Tiglao said, "I need to clear it with them first if they'll allow it."

Speaking over government-owned radio station Radyo ng Bayan from Ottawa, Canada, Tiglao explained that "it's because they are private businessmen and they would want to help anonymously at this time."

Tiglao said the government was allowing the businessmen to chip in because "we are saving on money which is the President's policy."

Tiglao clarified that the B&M's contract ran to \$800,000 not \$1 million, and covered a one-year period, not just for the President's current eight-day travel.

"It's only a bonus," Tiglao said of B&M's assistance for Ms Macapagal's ongoing travel. "What they do is talk to the banks, newspapers and financial magazines abroad to improve our image."

Ang also said he didn't know who was paying for the B&M fee.

But Ang noted that B&M had been on the saddle since last October

when preparations were underway for the President's state visit to the United States.

Thanks to publicity

Ang said that partly because of the good publicity, Ms Macapagal was able to attract \$4.3 billion in new American investments aside from millions in government assistance from Washington.

"All countries have PR firms working for them in the US. Like us, they're trying to improve the image of their country," he said.

In his briefing at the Palace, Cabrera said he had sent word to the presidential delegation abroad that he needed more information about the B&M contract which has been generating flak at home.

Upon Cabrera's invitation, Donald Dee, president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, appeared before the media in Malacañang on Tuesday to endorse the hiring of B&M.

But when asked how much he had personally contributed, Dee said none because he was "not invited" to do so. He also said that he didn't know who were the contributors.

ing only the bad news, they have a responsibility to tell the truth. But added that, "More than that, there is an equal responsibility to tell the Filipino what is good about him."

Eight judges selected the awardees: Meryll David, IABC director for Asia Pacific; Rigoberto Tiglao, presidential spokesperson; Erminio Ordoñez, Basic Advertising chair; Penelope Pool, an accredited business communicator; Tessa Jazmines, UP Mass Communication professor; Cheche Lazaro; Elpi Cuna of Meralco and Rolando Estabillo,

Inquirer Libre gets 2 awards for excellence

From page A1

The Gold Quill honors "leading-edge, dynamic and highly creative communication" as well as practitioners who exhibit leadership, technical skills and make sustainable solutions in communication programs. It is also a platform for showcasing efficient programs.

"Sharing knowledge is one of the fulfilling aspects of the award," said Gretchen Recto, chair of the awards committee, during the awarding ceremonies held Tuesday night at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati.

Build not destroy

Another speaker was noted broadcaster Cheche Lazaro, who hailed the Gold Quill awardees for giving "us a fine sample of what media can do to build instead of destroy," she said.

She also said that while the media have been criticized for report-

SSC
netters
prevail

SAN Sebastian College sustained its winning form in the seniors division of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tennis tournament yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The Stags, mentored by Frederick Morgan, defeated College of St. Benilde, 2-1, to remain unbeaten in three games. The Blazers absorbed their first loss against two wins.

Niño Salvador outclassed John Rey Moreno in the first singles, 6-0, 6-2, and later teamed up with Arvin Ruel to beat Moreno and Noel Zoleta in the doubles, 6-1, 6-2. CSB's Edwin Agawin won the second singles over Ruel, 8-6.

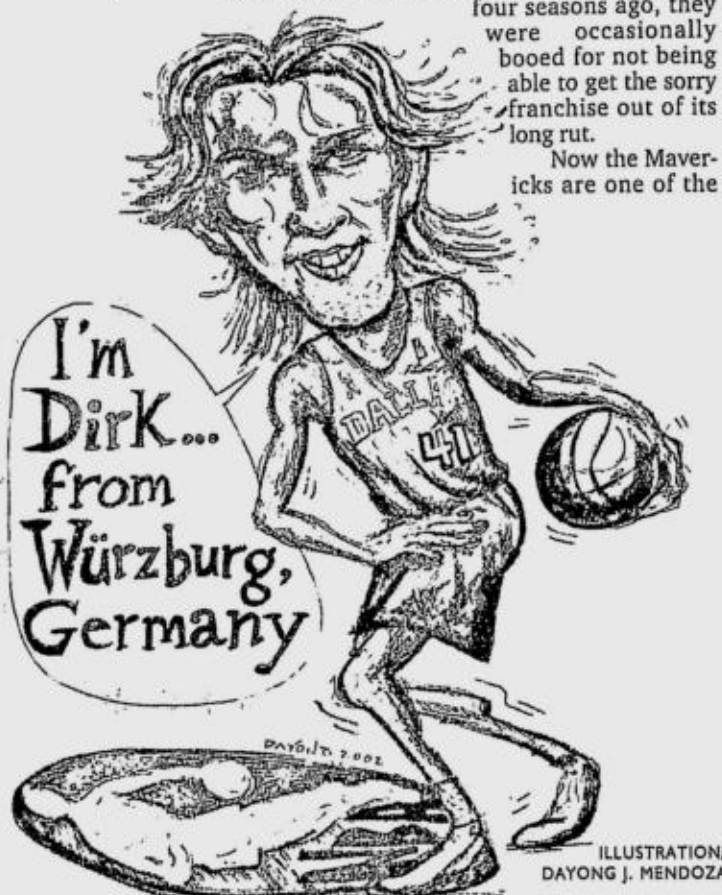
Earlier, defending champion Letran banked on Menandro Econg, Chemiel Mantua and Von Ruelan to demolish Mapua Institute of Technology, 3-0, while Jose Rizal University downed University of Perpetual Help-Rizal, 2-1.

CSB, Letran and Philippine Christian University also won their games in the junior division.

Derby
finals on

VETERAN Batangas breeder Dicky Lim, newly crowned 2002 World Slasher Cup champion, guns for another major title when the "3rd Ucap BJ Greenwood 7-Cock Derby" hosted by Ucap president Butch Macasaet gets going at Mandaluyong Coliseum today.

Currently on a winning streak, Lim's Winslet entry posted three points Tuesday night along with sabong idol Patrick Antonio (Hammer Sagupaan), Raymond Velayo and Butch Halili (Arnis Master I), Esting Teopaco and Capt. Ben Rodriguez (EGT Stingers), Pol Estrellado (PE San Pablo Hammer) and Jet Fernando and Ramon Mancanares (San Pedro GP).

BLAST
FROM
THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, University of the Visayas Green Lancers beat University of San Jose-Recoletos Jaguars, 98-94, to rule the Central Visayas regional students basketball championship at the University of San Carlos gym in Cebu City. Also today in 1993, Frankie Miñoza scored a six-stroke victory to win the 10th Philippine Masters Invitational at the Villamor course.

RACING TIPS

At San Lazaro By Mr. 999

- Race 1—1. With Feeling 2. Very Sharp 3. War General
Race 2—1. Island King 2. Everybodyhappy 3. Gangway 4. Fantasia
Race 3—1. Allusion 2. Dynasty 3. Play By Ear
Race 4—1. Cheese Laffongga 2. Jackpot 3. Snowy Sea 4. Judicial System
Race 5—1. Pep Up 2. Ong Bee 3. Sky Wind 4. Dancing Kiara 5. Smooth Sailing 6. Forest Dancer
Race 6—1. Wings of Gold 2. Jhelen 3. Santa Fe 4. Waw 5. Banahaw Blues
Race 7—1. Hollywood Park 2. Candy's Angel 3. Impeachment 4. En Carta
Race 8—1. Cool Under Fire 2. Golden Prince 3. So Generous 4. Raggedy Belle 5. Golden Child 6. Black Jhlay

Shark to pierce Welcoat pride anew

Rocha, Villaroman
DHL-NGAP leaders

By Jong Arcano

THE BATTLE of champions at Canlubang North is fast shaping up to be a grand show of the comebacking aces.

As a broken putter derailed the leadership bid of the defending champion who paid dearly for an outburst, Juami Rocha survived the nasty blowers with an even-par 72 to grab the solo lead after two rounds of the 7th DHL-NGAP Amateur Open.

Carmelette Villaroman got her own "three-peat" bid going in the ladies division with a 72 to open up a one-stroke lead over jungolf sensation Jayvie Agojo.

Rocha, eyeing a return to the national team after getting a Philosophy degree from UP, kept the big guns at bay with his good management of the windswept course as he hit the halfway mark at 142, two under par.

Marlon Dizon, another ex-national steadily regaining his caliber of old after being hounded by back problems, lost his share of the lead but stayed just a stroke behind.

He shot a 73 to be with yet another former RP team mainstay, Cookie La'O, and Boracay bet Mark Vijar at 143.

His exposure to the gusts of Boracay helping him survive the Canlubang test, the little-known Vijar came through with the lowest round so far in the event—a four-under-par 68 to emerge as a potential spoiler.

Two-time defending champion Juvic Pagunsan learned a painful lesson on emotional control, needing to finish his round with his driver doubling as his putter.

He broke the putting stick after slamming it hard over a missed putt on the fifth hole. Still, the Southeast Asian Games gold medalist was able to turn in a 72 and his most feared rival, Philippine amateur titlist Angelo Que, joined him at 143 with a 70.

Newly crowned Philippine Ladies Open titlist Heidi Chua had a turbulent start with her 78, leaving her six shots behind. Aileen Rose Yao, Lina de Guzman and Loralie Roberto all had 82s.

Rocha said that he knew keeping his score

within the even-par level would put him in a good position to win it.

"I feel pretty good because after the first day, even par would put me ahead of the pack. It was hard selecting clubs considering the strong winds," said Rocha.

The scores:

141 - J. Rocha 69-72 (36-36)
142 - M. Dizon 69-73 (37-36), C. La'O 70-72 (36-36), M. Vijar (Iloilo) 74-68 3434

143 - J. Pagunsan 71-72 (38-34), A. Que 73-70 (35-35)

144 - J. Bernis 74-70 (32-38)

145 - B. Jaraula 70-75 (36-39)

146 - M. Dumandan 73-73, L. Barril 72-74

147 - Ronnie Torrecampo 75-72

149 - J. Laput 74-75, B. Saragoza 74-75

Ladies
72 - Millet Villaroman 34-38

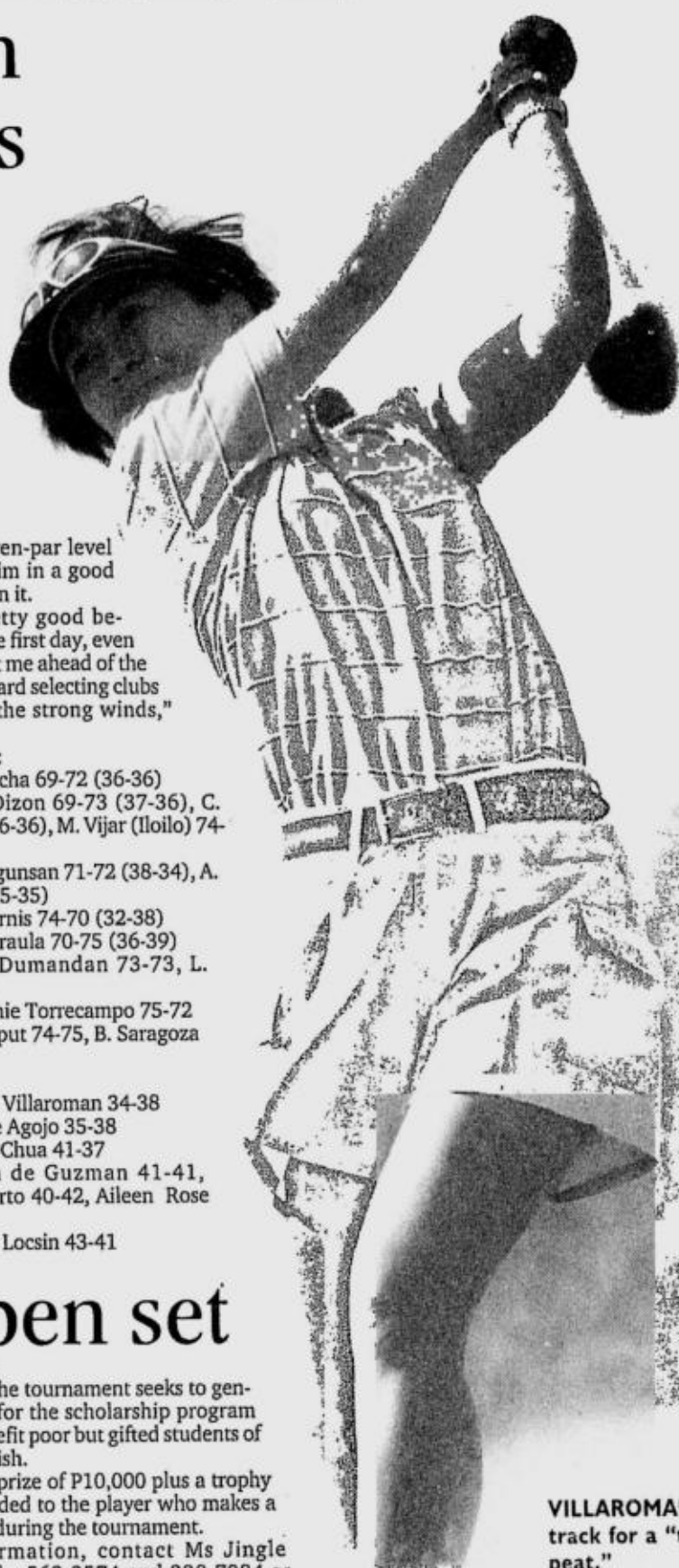
73 - Jayvie Agojo 35-38

78 - Heidi Chua 41-37

82 - Lina de Guzman 41-41,

Loralie Roberto 40-42, Aileen Rose Yao 40-42

83 - Tracy Locsin 43-41



VILLAROMAN: On track for a "three-peat."

ROMY HOMILLADA

Fr. Godofredo Open set

THE FR. Godofredo Open Golf tournament, sponsored by the Paco Catholic School Alumni Association, will tee off on Saturday, Feb. 9, at 6:30 a.m. at the Club Intramuros Golf Course.

This first ever alumni golf project is being held in honor of Fr. Godofredo Aldenhulsen, CIGM, school and parish church builder, who served as Paco parish priest for 44 years from 1931 to 1975.

Besides commemorating the memory of Fr. Godofredo, who marks his 119th birth anniversary

on Feb. 10, the tournament seeks to generate funds for the scholarship program that will benefit poor but gifted students of the Paco parish.

A special prize of P10,000 plus a trophy will be awarded to the player who makes a hole-in-one during the tournament.

For information, contact Ms. Jingle Dacapo, tel. 563-2574 and 338-7084 or email address: paconian@edsamail.com.ph

Cavs upset Wolves, halt 12-game losing streak

CLEVELAND—Wesley Person scored 27 points, Andre Miller had 17 and 12 assists and the Cleveland Cavaliers ended a 12-game losing streak with a surprising 114-81 win Tuesday night over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

The Cavs hadn't won since Jan. 2, and didn't figure to end their longest losing skid in 20 years against the Timberwolves,

one of the NBA's elite teams. But the Cavs made 12 of 13 field-goal attempts while outscoring the Timberwolves 45-4 over a 9:37 stretch bridging the second and third quarters.

It was Cleveland's most lopsided win this season and the Cavs' biggest since beating Charlotte by 33 on Jan. 25, 1997.

COMPLETE RESULTS: Cavaliers 114, Timberwolves 81; Pistons 89, Wizards 86; Lakers 127, Hawks 93; Knicks 78, 76ers 71; Bucks 109, Celtics 90; Clippers 117, Mavericks 100; Hornets 78, Spurs 73; Rockets 100, Warriors 96, OT; Heat 100, Nuggets 94, OT; Suns 91, Bulls 90; Trail Blazers 92, SuperSonics 86.

Nowitzki, Nash join Nelson as NBA All-Stars

DALLAS—When German Dirk Nowitzki and Canadian Steve Nash came to the Dallas Mavericks four seasons ago, they were occasionally booed for not being able to get the sorry franchise out of its long rut.

Now the Mavericks are one of the

NBA's top teams and Nowitzki and Nash are a big reason for it. Their status as elite players was sealed Tuesday when both were picked as reserves for the Western Conference All-Star team.

"I think we've come a long way in our four years here," Nowitzki said.

Coaching that squad will be Don Nelson, who brought the duo to Dallas and stuck with them through the hard times. He had little to do with their selection, however, as the reserves were chosen

through a vote of all 14 conference coaches.

"It makes it more fun for me, that's for sure," Nelson said. "They're as happy for me as I am for them."

The Mavericks are the NBA's highest-scoring team and All-Star games are usually heavy on offense. With Nelson coaching and two of his players in the game, the West is sure to keep the scoreboard operator busy Feb. 10 in Philadelphia.

Nevada commission denies Tyson boxing license, 4-1

LAS VEGAS—Mike Tyson was trying his heavy-weight best to be contrite and humble. He said he was sorry, and that next time he would learn to control his anger.

When it came time for Nevada boxing regulators to speak their piece, though, Tyson was already out the door.

The former heavyweight champion didn't stick around Tuesday to hear the Nevada Athletic Commission reject his bid for a boxing license to fight Lennox Lewis on April 6.

He was already out in the parking lot, calling Lewis out.

"I think Lennox is a coward," Tyson said. "I'm

going to fight him any time I see him in the streets." Lewis might have felt he was in a street fight with Tyson last week in New York during the news conference announcing the fight.

Hoshino regains WBA title

YOKOHAMA, Japan—Keitaro Hoshino of Japan scored a unanimous decision over Joma Gamboa of the Philippines on Tuesday to regain the World Boxing Association minimumweight crown.

In a bout between two former champions, Hoshino dominated the fight at Yokohama Pacific arena with a series of left jabs that nearly floored the third-ranked Gamboa on several occasions.



TYSON: I think Lennox is a coward.

A knockout for mankind

"WE don't want you to be an animal in the ring."

That was the most scathing remark yet hurled against Mike Tyson since his release from prison in 1995. It came yet from a woman—Amy Ayoub, one of four Nevada commissioners who rejected Tyson's bid for a boxing license to fight Lennox Lewis on April 6. Of the five voters, only commission chairman Luther Mack favored to give Tyson a license. That was a surprise; Mack was the only member still remaining from the commission that revoked Tyson's license for biting Evander Holyfield's ear in 1997. Tyson got it back, though, 15 months later.

"A lot of people don't want to see you fight again, they want you banned from boxing," Mack told Tyson.

Said Tyson: "I'm no Mother Teresa. I'm not Charles Manson, either. Just treat me equal."

What gall.

If he were a dog, Tyson would have easily gotten his share of animal protection rights.

"We want you to be a professional," said Ayoub.

A professional?

He's a professional ear-biter, isn't he?

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



He's a professional presscon saboteur, isn't he?
He's a professional wife-beater, isn't he?
He's a professional bar-room brawler, isn't he?
He's a professional rapist, isn't he?

If Tyson did not feel insulted by Ayoub's remarks, I'll not be surprised. Tyson is beyond feelings. Tyson is incapable of delving deep into statements directed at him.

How dare he uses Mother Teresa to argue his case. Oh, well, devils love to quote the good book to advance their designs. Tyson's worse than Manson, who authored one of history's grisliest murders—the Sharon Tate murder.

With the commission's decision, my respect for Nevada has been restored somewhat. Nevada has been known to propagate gambling and hustling

and the low life through its Las Vegas strip that, on several occasions, it trampled on morals in the name of tourism, if not money.

I hope we all learn from the Nevada example. The rest of the world rejecting Tyson will no longer make us an endangered specie.

Writer-professor Sol Juvida, stunningly beautiful the evening Fernando Poe Jr. was fiesta guest of honor in Mangataram (Pangasinan) on Saturday, was mistaken for Susan Roces (FPJ's wife) by many from the crowd that jam-packed the auditorium. Sol J, wearing a spaghetti-strapped, deep-red rose looker, helped me immensely in keeping the conversation alive with FPJ while the king of Philippine movies was awaiting to act out his role as the night's crowning guest. When Sol J asked FPJ about why he chose Dina Bonnevie as his leading lady in the forthcoming film "Batas ng Lansangan" being directed by FPJ (aka Ronwaldo Reyes), Da King said: "Most of today's female stars are too young to be my leading lady." Thanks, SJ. I owe you one.

Cagayan De Oro eyes MBA return

AFTER a two-year absence, Cagayan de Oro is seeking a return to the Metropolitan Basketball Association as the fourth member of the Southern Conference. Franchise holders Eric and Butch Canoy met with MBA commissioner Chito Loyzaga on Monday, informing him of their intention to re-activate the Cagayan de Oro Amigos, one of the league's founding teams but did not see action in the last two editions.

SPORTS

Al S. Mendoza, Editor ■ Edwin M. Villanueva, Assistant Editor

■ Shark-Welcoat Game 2 today /A13

■ Rocha, Villaroman pace DHL-NGAP golf /A13

15 NSAs snub POC meet; Dayrit wants talks

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FIFTEEN national sports associations boycotted yesterday's Philippine Olympic Committee general assembly to show their discontent over Celso Dayrit's leadership style even as the POC chief vowed to reach out to the displaced NSA heads.

Led by athletics association president Go Teng Kok, most of the 15 runaway NSA heads holed up at the Century Park Hotel in Manila, while 19 others — just one member over the quorum of 18 — joined the quarterly meeting at Café J in Pasay Road, Makati.

"I'm very saddened with what happened, although I'm not surprised by it," said Dayrit. "But I will try to talk to each and everyone of them and ask them if they have anything against me and what can I do to appease them."

Judo's Reynaldo Jaylo voiced out the sentiments of the pro-Go group saying: "We really want change in the POC, how can they set out the ethics committee to do everything it wants and claim that the POC executive board has nothing to do with it."

Jaylo was talking about the scope of powers of the ethics body which has yet to be discussed by the general assembly but is already being applied on Go on two separate cases.

But Dayrit pointed out that "I have no agenda against him (Go)."

Mario Tanchanco of sepak takraw said it was more of a "silent protest" in support of Go, who is a staunch critic of Dayrit, having been his rival for the POC presidency in 2000 election.

"We don't want to rock the boat but we really want to send across a message there is something that needs to be done in the POC," said karate's Ed Ponce, who is also a part of the protesting group.

Other absent heads

Other absent NSA heads were former Dayrit allies Buddy Andrada (tennis), Robert Aventajado (taekwondo) and association bosses in basketball, pencak silat, wrestling, softball, soft tennis, golf, volleyball, equestrian and wushu.

However, Dayrit claimed that some absentees asked to be excused like International Olympic Committee representative Frank Elizalde and Rudy Sicat of weightlifting.

Andrada and Aventajado are also reportedly planning to resign as POC deputy secretary general and chair, respectively, although both of them can't be reached for comment.

"The important thing is that we had a quorum and we were able to perform our function," said Dayrit. "I hope they (Go's group) will see the point that though there may be difference, there's still a possibility of the POC being united."

At any rate, it created a big setback for the POC especially because it was the first general assembly for the year, tackling primarily the country's Asian Games participation.

It was also the first time the POC held the meeting outside of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex and Philippine Columbian Association, where Andrada is a distinguished member.



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Cebu booters
rout Masbate

ILOILO CITY—Highly fancied Cebu Carmen National High School launched its campaign on a bright note yesterday by blanking Masbate Comprehensive High, 9-0, at the start of the 18th Coke Go-for-Goal national championship at the La Paz football center here.

Martin Buntia and Junard Aguilar starred for the Cebuanos with three goals apiece. John Las Piñas knocked in two markers while Ernest Daquil added one to complete the rout.

Despite the lopsided triumph, Cebu coach Graeme McKinnon downplayed his team's chances, saying host Barotac Nuevo is the team to beat.

"We are not looking yet at a title match. We are more concerned with our next game against Iligan's La Salle Academy on Friday," explained McKinnon.

Barotac Nuevo and last year's runner-up La Salle Academy were playing at presstime.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: US NCAA - Wake Forest vs

NC State at 1 p.m. on ESPN

NBA - LA Lakers vs Orlando Magic at 10

p.m. on NBN 4

POOL: Mosconi Cup 2001 at 8 a.m. (r) on

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METRO

Louie C. Camino, Editor

Lawyer says SC case fit to unmask Korina

By Alcuin Papa

THE DISBARMENT case filed by Korina Sanchez against Melanio "Batas" Mauricio, lawyer of Sanchez's former maid Bernadita Inocencio, may work against the popular ABS-CBN news reader.

This was the contention of Mauricio, who yesterday said he will use the disbarment case to "unmask the real Korina Sanchez."

Mauricio, who has a radio show over rival network GMA-7, yesterday filed a motion for clarification before the Supreme Court in response to Sanchez's disbarment case.

"The case will be the forum to prove Korina's alleged simultaneous relationships with two men," Mauricio said in a statement.

In his motion for clarification, Mauricio also thanked the Supreme Court and Sanchez for filing the case because he said this will give him the opportunity to prove "if necessary, whether accusations earlier made against Korina about her sex

life are true."

He added the Supreme Court will be the "best forum outside of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas, to establish whether the accusations of Korina's former maid are true or not."

"The highest court of the land can now proceed to unmask the real Korina Sanchez not only before her peers in the broadcast industry but in the eyes of the entire Filipino people as well," Mauricio said.

In response, Mauricio decided to file a motion for clarification of the charges Sanchez lodged against him.

"Based on the complaint, it is not clear to me what law it is that I supposedly broke," Mauricio argued. "As far as I know, there is no law prohibiting the distribution of a sworn statement to media."

Last week, the Supreme Court ordered Mauricio to answer the disbarment case filed against him by Sanchez.

In a resolution issued on Jan. 22, the Supreme Court gave Mauricio 10 days to answer Sanchez's complaint, docketed as administrative case No. 5575.

Sanchez charged that Mauricio is guilty of conduct unbecoming a lawyer

for having allegedly "gone the extra mile of besmirching my good name and reputation by distributing a supplementary affidavit where he fishes out unsavory half-truths and lies about my personal as well as alleged sex life."

The supplementary affidavit Sanchez referred to was the one issued by Mauricio's client, Sanchez's former maid Bernadita Inocencio. The maid claimed Sanchez was "grossly and morally unfit" to continue her broadcast work because she was maintaining illicit relationships, a charge which Sanchez denied.

In her three-page complaint, Sanchez also claimed "the main purpose of distributing the supplementary affidavit was precisely to humiliate and ridicule me in the eyes of the public."

Sanchez also asked the Supreme Court to take action against Mauricio and to "at the very least, instruct him to cease and desist from using the tri-media to malign my womanhood, reputation and name."

Last December, Inocencio accused Sanchez and her alleged boyfriend Paul Aquino, of beating her up and throwing her out of their Makati condo unit.

Chinese-Filipino trader killed

CHINESE-FILIPINO businessman David Sy-Lato was killed in an ambush yesterday afternoon in Binondo, Manila.

Sy-Lato, 35, president of the Manila Downtown Shooters Association, was killed when three gunmen opened fire on him as he was walking out of a restaurant on the corner of San Fernando

and Sto. Cristo streets in Binondo about 2 p.m., said Supt. Juanito de Guzman, Binondo police station chief.

But Sy-Lato was able to shoot back and hit one of the suspects, one Decoroso Pamesa, an alleged military man from Upper Bicutan, Taguig.

Philip Tubeza

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METHOD OF PILATES

PR firm in GMA trip justified

CRITICS of President Macapagal-Arroyo can't seem to leave her alone even when she's doing the right thing.

Take, for example, her use of an international public relations firm to publicize her visits to Britain, Canada and the United States. What's wrong with that?

Every government in the world whose head of state visits say, Washington DC, employs an international PR firm to focus importance on the visit.

Then President Ramos employed an international PR firm in his state visits to the United States and other first-world countries. So did former President Cory Aquino.

A PR firm employed by a government to undertake a media blitz for its head of state also acts as the lobby group for that leader when he or she asks for assistance from the host country.

President Macapagal-Arroyo did not hire the topnotch PR firm Burston and Marsteller to give her personal publicity, but to focus attention on the importance of her visits to the host countries.

If her previous visit to the United States resulted in billions of dollars in pledges of aid or investments, part of the credit goes to the PR-cum-lobby group.

Without the drumbeating, do you think prominent government and private entities in the United States would have paid attention to a small country like ours?

A country or government is like a corporation when it wants to project itself to the outside world: It needs an international PR firm and lobby group.

Most citizens don't know this, but foreign contractors have created a virtual monopoly over foreign-assisted or foreign-funded government infrastructure projects for sometime now.

Although the people's money is spent on such infrastructure projects, only foreigners benefit from them.

But why do foreign contractors monopolize those foreign-assisted or foreign-funded projects?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



Under the Foreign Borrowers Act and Memorandum Circular 14, passed in Aug. 21, 1989, foreign assisted/funded government infrastructure projects can be given to foreign contractors.

Our government practically gives blanket authority to foreign banks funding the projects to set their own guidelines in selecting contractors for our infrastructure projects. As a result, foreign contractors favored by the foreign lending institutions are awarded the projects.

However, foreign contractors do not comply with the same rigid requirements under the laws unlike local contractors. That's why they easily get the foreign-funded projects.

Why doesn't the government level the playing field by subjecting foreign contractors to the same rigid requirements set for local contractors?

If the government wants to carry out the intents of globalization, local contractors should be able to compete with their foreign counterparts in building dams, roads, bridges and other infrastructure projects in the country.

Public Works and Highways Secretary Simeon Datumanong will make his countrymen happy if he levels the playing field for the local contractors. He would do what his predecessors failed to do.

A foreign contractor, Ital-Thai (you will recall that this firm was involved in the Amari Scandal), still does business in the Philippines even if it declared itself bankrupt in Thailand where its main offices were located, according to some local contractors.

If the Ital-Thai firm is already not in operation in its own country, how come our government still allows it to take part in building infrastructure projects in the Philippines?

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Diarrhea, not cholera, killed mental patients

By Blanche S. Rivera and Nelson Flores

DIARRHEA, not cholera, caused the death of four patients and infection of 67 others at the National Center for Mental Health in Mandaluyong City.

The NCMH admitted only yesterday that there was an outbreak of diarrhea in the all-female Pavilion 5 since Jan. 17.

The illness claimed the life of another patient late Tuesday afternoon, raising the death toll to four.

Concerned NCMH personnel yesterday said the latest fatality was a female surnamed Canlubos. She died about 5 p.m. while undergoing treatment at the hospital infirmary.

Earlier, three patients were reported to have died since Saturday: Loretta Isip, a certain Trazo and a Villanueva.

The patients died of dehydration brought about by severe loose bowel movement and vomiting, known symptoms of the deadly cholera and diarrhea.

The dead patients tested negative for cholera, according to the NCMH.

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7 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

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7 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS	7 ISANG PANAGINIP
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	9 FINAL ANSWER
	10 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

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9 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	
10 LORD OF THE RINGS	
11 FINAL ANSWER	
12 ISANG PANAGINIP	

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3 BLACK HAWK DOWN	3 FINAL ANSWER
4 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE	4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
5 BEHIND ENEMY LINES	
6 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS	
7 THE OTHERS	
8 AMERICAN ADOBO	
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10 ISANG PANAGINIP	
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12 LORD OF THE RINGS	

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4 ISANG PANAGINIP	4 LORD OF THE RINGS
5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	5 AMERICAN ADOBO
6 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS	6 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
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4 OCEAN'S ELEVEN	4 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE	4 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE	4 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
5 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE	5 ISANG PANAGINIP	5 ISANG PANAGINIP	5 ISANG PANAGINIP
6 BLACK HAWK DOWN	6 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	6 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	6 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
7 BLACK HAWK DOWN	7 FINAL ANSWER	7 FINAL ANSWER	7 FINAL ANSWER
8 KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP	8 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	8 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	8 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
9 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	9 FINAL ANSWER	9 FINAL ANSWER	9 FINAL ANSWER
10 FINAL ANSWER			

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3 KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP	3 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE	3 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE	3 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
4 BLACK HAWK DOWN	4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	5 FINAL ANSWER	5 FINAL ANSWER	5 FINAL ANSWER
6 BLACK HAWK DOWN	6 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	6 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	6 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
7 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	7 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE	7 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE	7 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
8 BEHIND ENEMY LINES	8 BEHIND ENEMY LINES	8 BEHIND ENEMY LINES	8 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
9 OCEAN'S ELEVEN	9 OCEAN'S ELEVEN	9 OCEAN'S ELEVEN	9 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
10 FINAL ANSWER	10 FINAL ANSWER	10 FINAL ANSWER	10 FINAL ANSWER

Masagana	Dilson	Mandaluyong	Prima
1 ISANG PANAGINIP	1 HUBO	1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN	2 TALK DIRTY TO ME	2 ISANG PANAGINIP	2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	3 RESERVE	3 BLACK HAWK DOWN	3 BLACK HAWK DOWN
4 ISANG PANAGINIP	4 RESERVE	4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
5 BLACK HAWK DOWN	5 RESERVE	5 ISANG PANAGINIP	5 ISANG PANAGINIP
6 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	6 RESERVE	6 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	6 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
7 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	7 RESERVE	7 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	7 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
8 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	8 RESERVE	8 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	8 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
9 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	9 RESERVE	9 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	9 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	10 RESERVE	10 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	10 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

Metropolis	Olivarez Tri-Cinema	Olivarez Los Baños	Olivarez Tagaytay
1 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE	1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2 HEART IN ATLANTIC	2 BLACK HAWK DOWN	2 BLACK HAWK DOWN	2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 FINAL ANSWER	3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
5 ISANG PANAGINIP	5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
6 BLACK HAWK DOWN	6 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	6 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	6 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
7 RESERVE	7 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	7 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	7 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
8 RESERVE	8 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	8 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	8 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
9 RESERVE	9 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	9 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	9 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10 RESERVE	10 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	10 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	10 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

Premiere	Morales Cinema	Cabuyao	Emperor
1 BLACK HAWK DOWN	1 BUKO PANDAN	1 ISANG PANAGINIP	1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2 ISANG PANAGINIP	2 ON THE LINE	2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	3 ISANG PANAGINIP	3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4 BLACK HAWK DOWN	4 OCEAN'S ELEVEN	4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
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10 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	10 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	10 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	10 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

Center Plaza Cinema	Baclaran LRT	Berma	CitiMall
1 AMERICAN ADOBO	1 ISANG PANAGINIP	1 ISANG PANAGINIP	1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2 WALANG IWANAN	2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
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5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
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10 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	10 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	10 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA	10 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	KUNG IKAW AY 1 PANAGINIP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DOLBY)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN
MAXIM
MIRAMAR
ODEON
ODEON-2
ROBEN
TANDEM-1
TANDEM-2
TIMES

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1
ACT-2
ACT-3
ACT-4
CORONET-2
QUEZON-1
REMAR
REMAR-2

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A
B
C

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL
CINEMA-1
CINEMA-2

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST
CINEMA-1
CINEMA-2
CINEMA-3
CINEMA-4
CINEMA-5
CINEMA-6
CINEMA-7
CINEMA-8
CINEMA-9
CINEMA-10
CINEMA-11
CINEMA-12
CINEMA-14
CINEMA-15

LORES

CINEMA-2
CINEMA-3

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1
CINEMA-2
CINEMA-3
CINEMA-4
CINEMA-5
CINEMA-6

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)
CINEMA-1
CINEMA-2
CINEMA-4

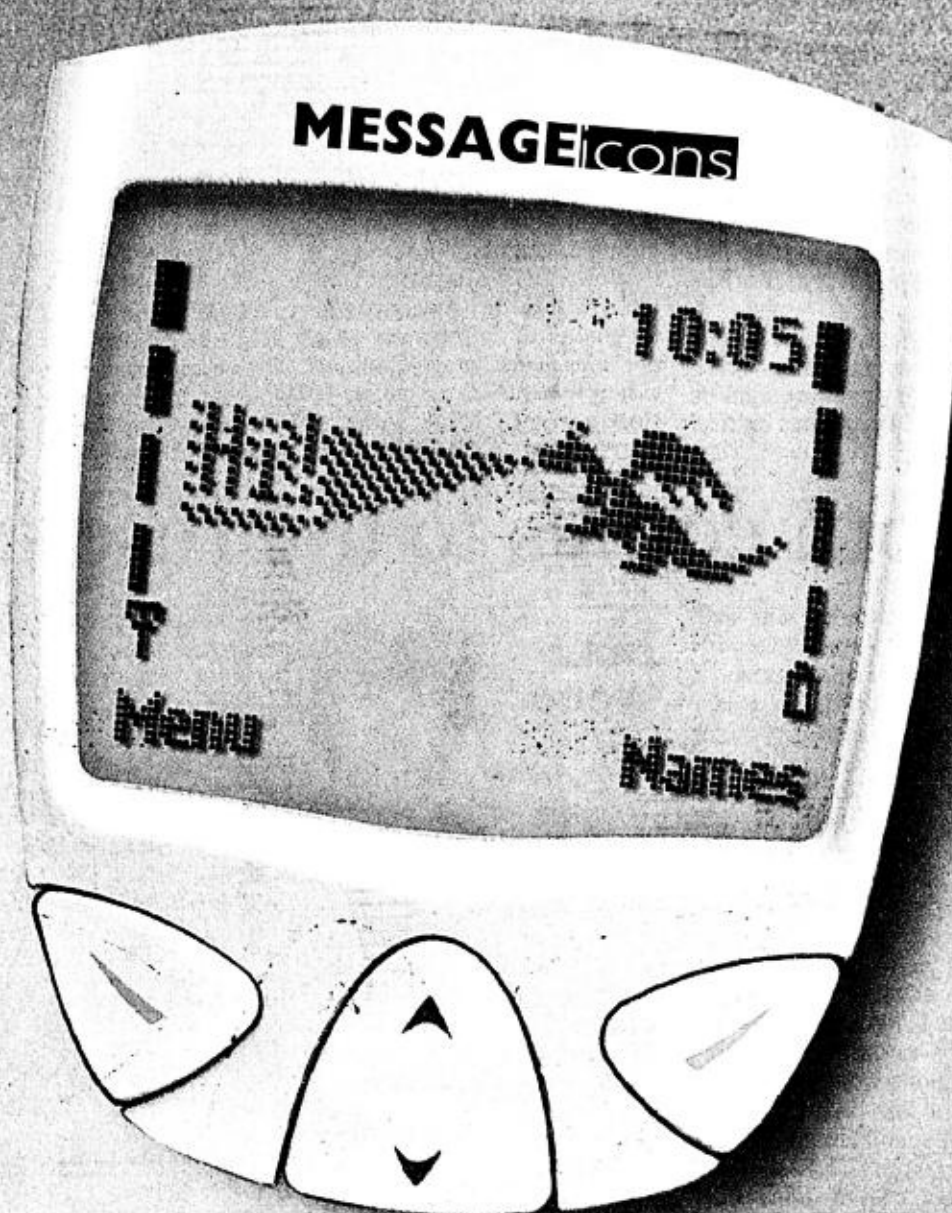
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)
CINEMA-1
CINEMA-2
CINEMA-4

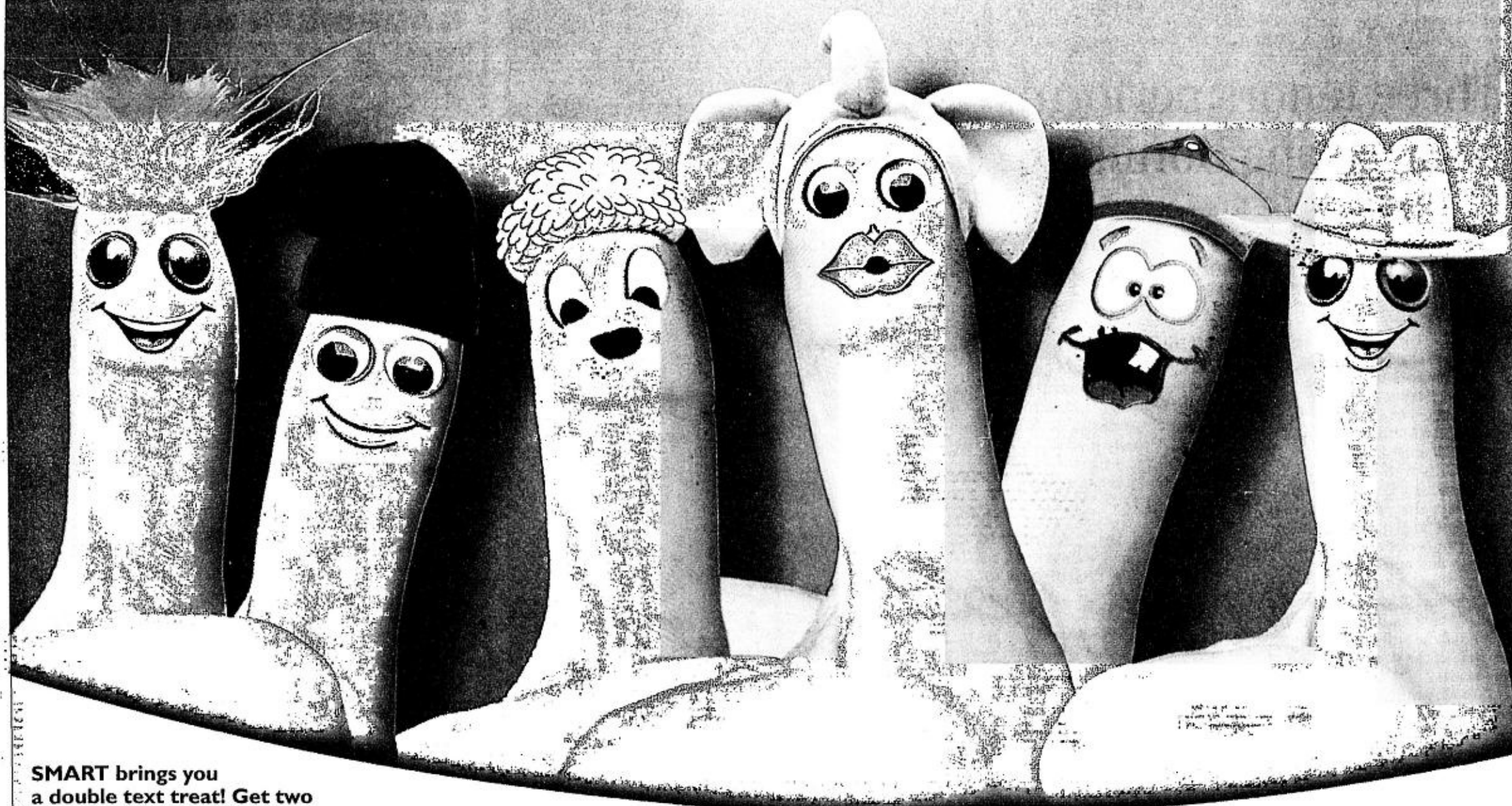
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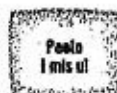
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To add an entry to your virtual phonebook, key in <name> <phone number> and send to 2441.



To send a flash message, key in <name> <your message> and send to 2441.



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BUSINESS

Raul O. Marcelo, Editor ■ Corrie S. Narisma, Assistant Editor

Malaysia backs National Steel rehab

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PENGARUSAN Danaharta Nasional Bhd. has agreed in principle to back up the Department of Trade and Industry's proposal for a debt-to-equity conversion of National Steel Corp.'s obligations to Philippine and Malaysian creditors.

Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said his team of Philippine government officials and bankers had a "meeting of the minds" with Danaharta to push for a long-term solution to NSC's debt problems that forced the company to shut down in November 1999.

Roxas said that both the Philippine and Malaysian parties have agreed to work out a debt restructuring program for NSC wherein the steel-giant's creditors would

write down their loans in the company while its shareholders, including the government which still holds a 12.5 percent interest through National Development Co., dilute their stake in the firm.

"Our objective is to restart NSC on a debt-free status to ensure its long-term viability," Roxas said. "Everyone involved has agreed to take a substantial haircut on their exposure in NSC." Roxas said the Malaysians have likewise agreed to first address NSC's unpaid dues

to its workers and suppliers before implementing the write-down.

Philippine banks led by Philippine National Bank have P16 billion in outstanding loans to NSC. Danaharta took over the holdings of the Hottick-Renong group in NSC last year due to its failure to pay the overdue 3 billion ringgit loan from Malayan Banking, RHB Bank, Bank Bumiputra and Commerce Assestholding Bhd. Hottick-Renong used the loan to bail out the original Malaysian owners of NSC, the Westmont group.

Roxas went to Kuala Lumpur early this month to seek Danaharta's consent on the DTT's proposal for a debt-conversion, which the Philippine creditors had been pushing. Danaharta would

still have some equity investments left in NSC after the write-down because NSC's assets were worth more than P20 billion.

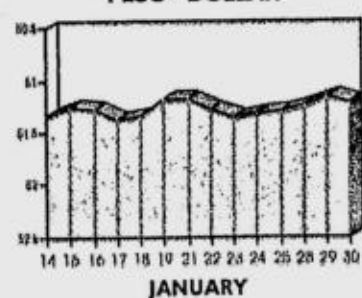
He said the Malaysians concurred with the DTT's position that it was better to aim for a more permanent solution now rather than settle for an interim solution that would bring back the same problem after two years.

Roxas heads the evaluation committee currently reviewing proposals to lease-rehabilitate-operate NSC's Iligan facilities from Cathay Pacific Steel Co., Allengoal Steel Trading and Fabrication Corp., and Voest Alpine of Austria. He said the process would continue in parallel with negotiations with Danaharta for the debt conversion proposal.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P51.220 = \$1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 30, 2002

Y132.76 = \$1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 30, 2002

GOLD: \$282.70/283.20

per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 30, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks

up slightly

SHARES closed marginally higher yesterday on late bargain hunting in selected blue chips led by Globe Telecom, reversing intra-day weakness brought by the drop in the Dow Jones overnight.

Globe gained 3.7 percent after it reported a net income of P4.3 billion in 2001, almost triple its year-ago net profit of P1.549 billion.

The market's slight gains cut a three-day losing streak in the main index but traders said the index may still return to its correction phase.

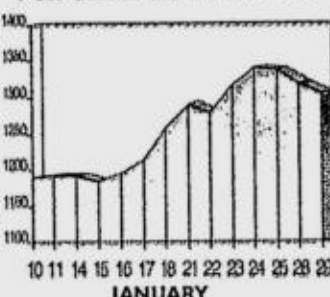
"Despite the general weakness of the market, it's good enough that the market was able to come up with some resilience," said Jo-Ann Bueno-Eala, head of BPI Investment Management.

The main index added 2.72 points, or 0.21 percent, to end at 1,307.11 points after falling to an intra-day low of 1,293.30 points.

The market had lost 2.63 percent in the last three sessions to Tuesday. But despite the recent losses, the Philippine market has so far gained 11.9 percent this year.

Turnover narrowed to P538.77 million from Tuesday's P596.12 million. Losers nearly equaled gainers, 39 to 38, with 37 issues unchanged.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Inflation seen hitting 22-month low in January

INFLATION is likely to fall to its lowest in 22 months in January, helped by a stable peso and declining oil prices which could give the central bank more room to ease monetary policy, economists said.

A Reuters poll of 10 economists forecast an average 3.64 percent year-on-year rise in the consumer price index for January, the lowest since March 2000. The inflation data is due to be released on Feb. 5.

"We see another sizeable fall in the January inflation rate. Remember that inflation has continued to surprise on the low side in recent months," said Lehman Brothers economist Graham Parry.

"We see it falling to 3.3 percent in January compared with 3.9 percent for December," he said.

The inflation rate was 6.9 percent in January 2001, at the height of a popular revolt which forced former president Estrada out of office and installed then-vice president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the country's leader.

"The exchange rate has remained stable, oil

prices are also falling, so I think those three factors combine to produce a very low inflation outcome in the Philippines which should probably augur well for further interest rate cuts," Parry said.

Government and central bank officials have said the inflation rate for January was likely to be between 3.7 percent and 4.1 percent.

Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco said the bank was likely to review monetary policy again after its last easing on Jan. 17 if the US Federal Reserve cuts key rates at its meeting this week.

"We will assess (the rates) again depending on what the Fed is going to do," Tetangco said.

"We have to look at the inflation outlook to make sure that the inflation situation would be consistent with whatever action of the Monetary Board," he said, referring to the policy-making body of the central bank.

Song Seng Wung, regional economist of G.K. Goh, said the central bank should take advantage of the low inflation outlook in the near term and lower rates now rather than later.

German firm OKs \$149-M PLDT loan

By Abigail L. Ho

TELECOMMUNICATIONS giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. has signed a \$149-million loan agreement with KfW (Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau) of Germany to partly refinance its maturing obligations from this month to December 2004.

"This facility from KfW is very important to PLDT as it is a key initial milestone in successfully implementing the comprehensive liability management program to address debt maturities in 2002 to 2004 that we had earlier outlined," PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan said yesterday.

In an earlier interview, Pangilinan said the country's dominant carrier would be engaging in various liability management efforts to help pay for its \$1.3 billion in maturing obligations.

These efforts include controlling costs, raising revenues and managing capital expenditure.

It would also be selling a minority stake in its wireless subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. This is expected to raise \$300 million to \$400 million for PLDT.

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The art of performance



Massage in the battle

THEY'RE over now—Gloriaetta's days as a laundry woman. Remember that message in the bottle? That song of derision no longer applies: "Gloria, Gloria, labandera?"

Today, in business, at least in some big groups I know, they are signing about her a song of praise: "Gloria, Gloria, masahista."

The line refers to Gloriaetta's style of management. And that is, complete hands-on. They are saying she is even more hands-on than your favorite masseuse.

Now, such a management style is not altogether bad. Some things need close attention from the higher-ups. In Gloriaetta's case, obviously, you can't get any higher.

On the mass transit projects of this cute administration, for instance, Gloriaetta keeps a close eye. Handlers of the projects thus submit to her status reports every week.

At times, however, it can put her in bigtime trouble. Hands-on, particularly in political issues, denies her the usual shock-absorber. Political flaks go directly to her.

These days, precisely, such is happening to Gloriaetta in the issue over the US troops. Just take a look at what our massage girl must battle!

BEFORE business groups, as we know, Gloriaetta always tries to project control. Of course, no! It's the only way to rebuild the business sector's shattered confidence.

And so she tells businessmen that she is on top of this Balikatan issue. In fact, she says, she is completely aware of the political risks. It's just that she wants to take them.

It is, in other words, as far as Gloriaetta is concerned, just a political issue. For what is intrinsically wrong with Balikatan? Hey, it is not a mortal sin or something.

Gloriaetta doesn't have to ask for any father's blessing for she has sinned. She doesn't have to go to confession. Nowhere is it said "thou shalt not commit Balikatan."

Simply, some people do not agree with her decision. This is what's wrong with Balikatan. Their reasons can vary from the sublime to the psychotic.

Some groups are against it purely out of the principle of the thing. It's a matter of national pride, I agree, and we must not let foreign governments fight our own battle.

But for whatever reason, self-serving or otherwise, other groups are just riding on the is-

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III



sue. They deserve to be used as targets in the bombing practices of Balikan.

IF Gloriaetta's intentions are good, and she is telling the truth that the US troops are here just for some marching drills and such, what's all the fuss about?

By the way, if, as they say, the road to hell is paved with good intentions, it does not necessarily mean that the road to heaven is paved with bad, or does it?

Anyway, I don't know what the CBCP will say about that, and I just know that, good or bad, Gloriaetta's intention does not matter much anymore.

She already did the deed. She took, in her own words, the political risk. Now she must calm down the politics of it all. Or else the cure becomes worse than the VD.

Amid all this brouhaha, I think, hides the real culprit, which is, basically, this cute administration's utter lack of preparation.

For such a big political risk, I wonder why Gloriaetta, who is even said to be "campaigning" already for 2004, cannot apply a bit of charm, *este*, caution.

Maybe Gloriaetta wants that element of any military, er, "exercise." And that is, SURPRISE. She succeeded in surprising everybody, including her own foreign secretary, reportedly.

BUT just in case Gloriaetta is hiding something from us, such as what those US troops are really doing here, I'm sure she must have a good reason for it, too.

Let's say the US military wants to plant its foot in the region. The Americans become our K-9 or whatever against all forms of terrorism. Is that good or bad?

In business, being pragmatists, they say that nothing is wrong with it. For one, it takes a lot of money to go to war. For two, we can hardly afford it.

And so if Gloriaetta is willing to take the "po-

litical risks" for and in behalf of American interests in the region, what is in it for her, or for that matter, for this country?

The government of Pakistan had to quell mammoth protests, when the US military used that country as a jump off point for its operations in Afghanistan.

What did Pakistan get out of it? Oh, nothing much, really! Just several billions of dollars in debt write-off and some more billions in outright aid!

Is this a purely business decision for Gloriaetta? We don't know yet. We see nothing much is coming from Uncle Sam at the moment. I just hope it's not just some hand-me-down equipment again.

SORRY, but the column last Tuesday, Jan. 29, was cut short because of my own stupidity. This paragraph was omitted. It won't happen again. Give me 50 lashes if it does. Here goes:

We have a big problem, however, in so-called ODA, or official development assistance. And that is, we hardly use it. So why will the Japanese government give us some more.

To assure our financiers abroad that she means business this time, Gloriaetta therefore wants no delay in ODA projects whatsoever. It explains her massage approach.

Another project in her watchlist is the LRT II, which runs between Recto Avenue in Manila and Santolan Street in Pasig, passing through Aurora Boulevard in Cubao.

Teddy tells me that, for the LRT II, Gloriaetta is not that demanding. She only wants it to start operations by April next year. Well, at least part of it.

Finally, the LRTA must get a financial closing for the LRT I extension, which goes toward the south, between the terminal in Baclaran and somewhere in Cavite.

It's not exactly a rush project, I learn from Teddy. The deadline set by Gloriaetta for the closing is middle of the year. That's only a few months from now.

Well, Gloriaetta wants the construction to start this year. There's a good reason. She wants the LRT I extension to be running by 2004. Oops.

I don't know how Jaime Cardinal Sin looks at that, but to me it's not campaigning. For if getting things done is campaigning, let's have elections everyday.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, January 30, 2002)					
	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	64.5	65	64.5	65	212,200
Chiyata Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	3,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28	28	27	27	893,300
First E-Bank Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	4,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	107	109	106	106	165,860
Philippine National Bank	66	66	66	66	1,000
Philippine Trust Co.	60	60	60	60	1,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	12.75	12.75	12,800
Security Bank Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.25	83,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	16	16	15.75	15.75	231,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	15,000
Philippine Fund Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	100,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1260	1300	1260	1300	1,100
Sun Life Financial Serv.	990	995	990	995	19,340
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
AIS-GBN Broadcasting Corp.	31	32	31	32	47,100
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.47	0.55	0.47	0.54	19,990,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	690	700	690	700	25,810
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.036	0.042	0.036	0.041	87,800,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	290,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.43	0.48	0.42	0.48	19,950,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
Ivantage Corp.	500	505	500	500	102,830
Philweb Corp. Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.024	145,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	26.5	27	26.5	26.5	34,500
Manila Electric Co. B	38.5	38.5	37.5	38	702,900
Petroneer Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.74	1.8	14,514,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Intl Container Term'l Sv	2.7	2.85	2.7	2.8	13,021,000
William, Gothong & Aboltiz	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	5,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	670,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	95,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.76	0.7	0.75	70,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	80,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	601,600
La Tondella Distillers Inc.	23	23	23	23	166,500
RPM Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.85	602,000
San Miguel Corp. A	44	44.5	44	44.5	233,300
San Miguel Corp. B	58	58	57.5	57.5	105,900
Universal Robina Corp.	4.45	4.5	4.45	4.5	58,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg. A	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	190,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg. B	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	10,000
Ayala Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	3,704,000
Abolito Equity Ventures	1.74	1.74	1.7	1.72	2,207,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	300
Ajo. Net Holdings Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	20,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	40,000
Alcom Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	45,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.27	0.27	0.2	0.2	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.75	0.76	0.73	0.76	13,900,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.36	0.41	0.36	0.4	11,150,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.31	0.29	0.31	4,130,000
Fi-Estate Corp.	0.1	0.11	0.1	0.11	6,000,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.205	0.22	0.205	0.22	20,000
First Phil Hldg. Corp.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	93,800
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	330,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.19	0.215	0.19	0.195	14,000,000
Ionics Inc.	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.8	12,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.82	0.83	0.82	0.83	2,420,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.39	0.33	0.38	17,900,000
Music Corp.	0.3	0.32	0.29	0.31	7,190,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	200,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	780,000
Union Res. & Holdings Co.	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.34	5,070,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Pryce Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	2,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14	14	14	14	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	500,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.55	0.6	0.55	0.6	500,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	30,000
Montadragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.6	0.72	0.6	0.68	2,250,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	31.5	32	31.5	32	167,500
DMCI Holdings Inc. - Pref.	720	730	720	730	130
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.8	1.82	1.78	1.78	110,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	675	685	675	685	6,630
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	29,400
PhilTel (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
Philweb Corp. Inc.-Warrants	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.006	45,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.9	15,295,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,820,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.46	0.47	0.45	0.47	4,250,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.31	8,540,000
Fluvest Land Inc.	2.2	2.26	2.2	2.26	9,232,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	50,000
Phil-Estate Land Inc.	0.25	0.3	0.25	0.3	920,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	800,000
SM Development Corp.	0.91	0.96	0.91	0.91	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.7	6.9	6.7	6.9	3,179,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	700,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	4,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	50,000
Ilogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.042	0.045	0.042	0.042	93,500,000
Ilogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	500,000
Lepanto Cons. Min. Co. A	0.195	0.22	0.19	0.195	33,950,000
Lepanto Cons. Min. Co. B	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.19	480,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	1,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	10,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.019	10,100,000
Philrex Mining Corp. A	0.23	0.25	0.23	0.25	240,000
Philrex Mining Corp. B	0.24	0.28	0.24	0.25	1,180,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	25,300,000
Interport Res. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	30,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	14,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Pacific	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	10,000,000
Sinophill Corp.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	400,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.18	0.21	0.18	0.21	100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.2	170,000

Kirin report out next week

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TRADE Secretary Manuel Roxas II said yesterday that his review committee would complete next week an interim agreement that would ensure that the government would continue to have a say in the operations of San Miguel Corp. even after the entry of Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd. of Japan.

Roxas said the committee's members decided that the agreement would have to uphold the interest of small coconut farmers through adequate representation on San Miguel's boards, committees and

subsidiaries.

"This is why the government, as custodian of the coconut farmers' interest in the company, must always have a voice in the management of San Miguel," Roxas said.

Roxas said the government was looking to have at least seven board seats in San Miguel—five for the Presidential Commission on Good Government, and one each for state pension funds Government Service and Insurance System and Social Security System.

The PCGG could not vote its nominees in San Miguel's board last year because of the refusal of the nominees

of former President Joseph Estrada to yield their positions. The Estrada nominees cited the government's failure to name its nominees before the deadline, Jan. 21, 2001, which was coincidentally the day Estrada abandoned Malacañang.

Roxas is heading a committee that includes PCGG chair Haydee Yorac and Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo. The committee is reviewing the terms of Kirin Brewery's \$540-million buy-in into San Miguel. The agreement is being prepared in time for San Miguel's special stockholders' meeting next month, which will tackle the deal.

President Macapagal-Arroyo formed the committee on concerns that Kirin's buy-in was a gambit by Cojuangco to neutralize the government's control of the company while cementing his hold

RP moves a step closer to exiting dirty money list

By Elena Torrijos
and Rocky Nazareno

THE ANTI-MONEY Laundering Council is seen hurdling the first step in convincing the world's money laundering watchdog to remove the Philippines from its list of non-complying countries.

In a news briefing yesterday, Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia Bautista said the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force's Asia-Pacific review group found the country's new anti-money laundering law as "very good."

"Some members of the Asia-Pacific review group praised us for progress in the law," Bautista told reporters.

Bautista was part of a Philippine delegation that went to the FATF's meeting in Hong Kong to defend the country's anti-money laundering law.

The FATF's Asia-Pacific review group is expected to discuss its views on the Philippines' new law against money laundering and come out with an opinion tomorrow.

Money laundering is the process of cleaning "dirty money." The money is "dirty" in the sense that it comes as proceeds from a criminal act.

The country approved a law against

money laundering in October last year, narrowly beating a deadline set by the FATF.

"My personal reading is we have answered their questions and the law answers their concerns," Bautista told reporters.

If the FATF finds the law "acceptable," the Philippines will have to submit the law's implementing rules and regulations and an action plan to the FATF. The FATF will then send a review team to the Philippines to check on the country's efforts against money laundering. The team will recommend whether to remove the Philippines from the FATF's blacklist.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, who was with the Philippine delegation, confirmed that the FATF had expressed its intention to send a team to the Philippines to conduct a "sight visit... and see how the law is being implemented."

Pangilinan, chair of the Senate justice committee, reported that "based on informal talks, a lot were enlightened on provisions that needed clarification."

The FATF has expressed some concerns over some of the provisions of the country's anti-money laundering law, particularly on the narrow range of un-

lawful activities or "predicate crimes" that it covered, the high P4-million threshold set to trigger an investigation and the limited powers of the country's anti-money laundering body.

"We were able to show them that the coverage is ample and sufficient," Pangilinan said.

He said the Philippine delegation was able to convince an FATF working group that the country's anti-money laundering law would cover 115 crimes.

He added that the P4-million threshold was "complemented by other laws. For instance, they were apprised about the existence of a 'know-your-customer' rule as provided in our banking laws."

Pangilinan said the Philippine panel was also able to address the FATF's concern over a provision that required government regulators to secure a court order before they could investigate a suspicious account.

"We have cited to them an actual case wherein it took no more than 24 hours to secure a court order to open a bank account's records. We have shown them that this will entail a simple process, just like acquiring an arrest warrant," he said.

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FRAport sees Naia III as springboard to Asia

THE FRAPORT AG Frankfurt Airport Services Worldwide is hoping the \$450-million Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal III will be its launch pad to bagging other airport development projects in Asia.

FRAPort executive vice president Bernd Struck said Asia was "a very interesting market" in view of plans by various governments in the region to privatize their airports in the coming years.

Struck said FRAPort's business strategy was to invest and manage airports around the world that met their minimum standards. He said the prospective airport should have a passenger volume of at least 5 million a year and should be a gateway to either a major tourism area or a capital city. FRAPort would contribute not only in building a world-class airport but also help develop air traffic in a country, he said.

He said a successful implementation of the Naia III project would boost FRAPort's bid to get a piece of the boom in airport development projects in the region. He said this was the reason why FRAPort wanted to ensure that the project be completed on time. The project is 70 percent complete and is on track to meeting its scheduled November opening this year.

Struck said Naia III was so far the largest investment project of FRAPort, which put its money into Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. upon the invitation of its majority Filipino owners. Struck is currently Placot chair.

He said the Filipino group, led by the Philippine Airport Ground Services Inc., wanted a foreign partner with a vast experience in airport operations. FRAPort was initially a consultant of the project until 1998, when it took over the 30-percent holdings of the Lufthansa group, which sold out due a strategic change

in overall corporate direction.

"We have put in a substantial amount of money in the project, and we don't want to lose our investment. We have to stand together at the start of the project," Struck said. FRAPort has sunk in 30 percent of the project's \$190-million equity apart from extending financing to the project.

Struck said upon completion, Naia III would be comparable with other airports in Europe and the United States in terms of efficiency and safety. "Its standards would be higher than any other Asian airport because we have installed the latest technology available. Everybody will be surprised on how we were able to blend Filipino culture in designing a high-tech terminal," he said.

Struck said the project was also being closely watched by the international financial community and that its successful implementation would boost investor confidence in the country.

Placot won the 25-year contract to build the country's biggest international terminal after it topped the offer of Asia's Emerging Dragons Corp. in a "Swiss Challenge" bidding in 1997. AEDC, now controlled by Lucio Tan after he bought out the shares of his fellow taipans, made the original development plan for Naia III during the term of former President Fidel Ramos.

Naia III is being built on a 65-hectare lot at the Villamor air base and it is being hyped as one of the most modern airports in the region upon its completion. Naia III will have a capacity of 13 million passengers or nearly triple the current 5 million capacity of the old Naia terminal.

Although the project was supposed to start in 1999, construction only started in July 2001 due to opposition from interested parties and numerous reviews by government agencies and Congress.

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

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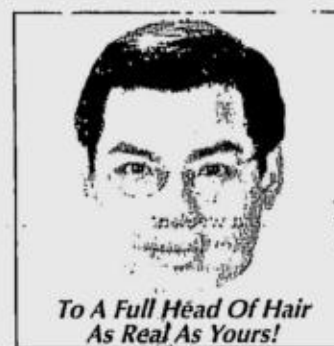
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Aries Espinosa, Editor

Pana, DLSU offer diploma program in marketing communications management

THE DLSU-College of Saint Benilde, in partnership with the Philippine Association of National Advertisers, offers the diploma program in marketing communications.

The post-baccalaureate diploma program in marketing communications management is a series of certificate courses designed to share best practices, update the knowledge and enhance the competencies of marketing practitioners. The participant earns a diploma in marketing communications management upon completion of the required six certificate courses. The completion of each course, in turn, entitles the participant to a certificate of achievement. Market-

ing professionals and experts will facilitate the courses.

The certificate courses include building the brand (Jan. 26 to March 2); PR and advocacy marketing (March 9 to April 13); relationship marketing (May 4 to June 8); web advertising and marketing (June 15 to July 20); integrated marketing communications (July 27 to Aug. 31)—participants are required to complete three courses before they are allowed to enroll in this course; and market research and media planning (Sept. 7 to Oct. 12).

The course fee per participant is P7,750 for Pana members and P8,750 for non-members. Course sessions are scheduled every Satur-

day from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Classes are held at the International Center of DLSU-College of Saint Benilde.

For inquiries and reservations, visit or call the Certificate Program Center, Room 701, 7th floor, DLSU-CSB International Center, Arellano corner Estrada Streets, Manila, with telephone numbers 303-9859/526-7441 to 47 local 104, telefax 303-9858 or 521-7304, e-mail cpc@csb.dlsu.edu.ph, or visit www.csb.dlsu.edu.ph/cpc. You may also visit Pana at Unit 4-5, third floor, Sunshine Condominium, 9633 Kamagong Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City, with telephone numbers 890-2989 to 91 or telefax 899-5671/91.



KALAKBAY AWARD

Renato Magadia, chair of Waterfront Philippines Inc, receives the Kalakbay award from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Department of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon at the Malacañang Palace.



EMPRESS DENTAL LABS SIGNS CONTRACT

Empress Dental Laboratories Inc. recently held a contract signing for a whole floor lease at Net One Center, Fort Bonifacio. Shown from left is lawyer Tina Samson, Net One Center corporate counsel, with Tim Fischer, Stella Rufino, Net One Center marketing director, Empress president Gabor Koos, and Hazel de Guzman, marketing consultant of Chesterton Blumenauer Binswanger.

Hope for troubled marriages

MARRIED couples who need healing in their relationship can seek help from a Retrouvaille weekend scheduled from Feb. 8 to 10 at the Mother of Mercy Spiritual Center, SVD Road, Barangay San Jose (near San Pablo Seminary), Tagaytay City.

A Catholic ministry, Retrouvaille (French for rediscovery) is a program designed to help heal and renew stressed, troubled, and hurting marriages.

It is for married couples who feel unfulfilled in, or disillusioned with, their marriages and are resolved to put the past behind and work at rediscovering each other in a new and positive way.

Fr. David Clay of the Columban House, Singalong, Manila, is the spiritual direc-

tor of Retrouvaille. He and three couples who have experienced the Retrouvaille program will give talks during the weekend.

The Retrouvaille program consists of a three-day weekend starting Friday evening and ending on Sunday afternoon, and six follow-up Saturday afternoon sessions in Metro Manila.

Couples who want more information on the program or who wish to register for the Feb. 8 weekend may call Fr. David Clay at 523-3361 or 0918-9020511, Tom and Ruby del Castillo at 931-8413 and 932-3750, Ding and Belen Bauza at 776-4413, Tessie Reyes at 800-5255 (between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.) or 0917-5388970 and Joe and Ting Jimenez at 927-3905 (after 7 p.m.).

Don Bosco's 'evening with champions'

IN COMMEMORATION of its golden jubilee celebration, the Don Bosco Alumni Philippine National Federation Inc. is holding "An Evening with Champions" on Thursday, Jan. 31, 6 p.m. at The Court, Rockwell Center, Makati. The grand celebration, which is also the first national alumni gala night, will coincide with the Feast of Don Bosco on the same day. Highlight of the dinner-dance party is the launching of the Father Rinaldi Trust Fund, which aims to finance the education of future Salesian priests. For details, call the National Federation office at 713-0154 or any local chapter across the country, or e-mail farmand@epic.net.



FPPCP 9-BALL WINNER

The Federation of Provincial Press Club of the Philippines (FPPCP) recently held a 9-ball billiard tournament in Boracay Island in Malay, Aklan recently. Rey Ang, president of Asian Advertising, topped the tournament participated in by 16 billiard enthusiasts from different media outfits nationwide. Shown from left is tournament organizer Norman Tandoc with tourney champion Rey Ang, 3rd placer Abet Munsod of Asian Advertising, Angelica Jones, Bernie Mlaque, FPPCP president, and Steve Tajanlangit of the 7107 Club.

HPAIR 13th inter-school summit

THE ATENEO-Harvard Project for Asian and International relations (HPAIR) Union, in cooperation with the University of Asia and the Pacific HPAIR Society, presents "In Touch: Media, Telecommunications, Ethics and Human Life," its 13th inter-school summit, on Feb. 16 at the PLDT Conference Hall of UA&P. Join bright students and stimulating resource speakers in a conversation about the development of our nation. All inquiries may be directed to Bianca Grey at 426-6001 loc. 5059, 0917-9324576, or at e-mail bdjgrey@msn.com. Apply at www.ateneohpair.org.

Masskara festival at ATC

A GRAND Masskara Festival is perking up January at the Alabang Town Center in its grand sale and colorful pop and cultural activities until Feb. 3. ATC joins the Department of Tourism, the Philippine Convention and Visitors Corp., in cooperation with the Philippine Retailers Association in staging a Grand Fiesta Sale for three full weeks of value shopping. ATC has turned itself into a mini-Iloilo, Bacolod and Boracay and showcases different events: a tiangge at the Town Plaza; a manghuhula festival (Feb. 2 and 3), and an ati-atihan competition (Feb. 3). The activities will culminate in a festive street party featuring the retro music of Mullatto.



AUTOMATIC CENTRE 1ST RAFFLE DRAW

The first winner of the P100,000 grand prize in the ongoing 'Gift Check Mania' raffle promo of Automatic Centre was drawn recently at the company's Greenbelt 1 Makati branch. Present at the draw were (from left) Grelli Despi, Automatic Centre Greenbelt 1 branch head; Osmond Piola, Automatic Centre branch auditor; Helen Salvatierra, DTI representative; and Robby Decena, Automatic Centre AVP for marketing services. 40 other lucky patrons won gift check prizes worth P190,000 in the draw. The promo runs until March 31, with the second draw set for April 12.

Motorola T190: SMS redefined

MOTOROLA redefines SMS messaging with its latest cell phone for the young and the young-at-heart. With group SMS capabilities, the T190 is capable of sending a single SMS message to 10 recipients at one go. Flaunting adorable SMS icon tags, users can send animated flowers which bloom when the recipient opens the message. With the ability to send 765 characters in a single SMS message, the T190 adds a dash of fun and excitement for youths and young adults who SMS extensively.

"SMS messaging is phenomenally popular, especially among today's active young," says Motorola officials. "Motorola's T190 was tailored for the youth market. With endearing animation and enhanced SMS capabilities, the T190 makes SMS messaging faster, simpler and more exciting than before."

The T190 enables users to enliven SMS messages animated icons tags. Running late for a date? Appease your girlfriend with an animated flower attachment with your note that you will be late. When she reads the message, an animated flower will blossom and bloom on the screen of her T190 — enough to make up for the delay. With 25 animated icons to choose from, users can send smiley faces to brighten someone's day.

For times when a short SMS message cannot convey all you have to say, the T190 enables you to type it all in a single SMS message. Users can send up to 765 characters at one go with the T190. If the message exceeds the pre-set limit of 160 characters per message, the T190 breaks the message, sending it as separate messages to the recipient. If the recipient also possesses a T190, the phone reassembles the message for recipient, enabling users to receive lengthy messages as a single SMS message.

With the T190, keeping up with old buddies is a breeze with group messaging. SMS message can be sent to up to 10 recipients simultaneously, allowing users to communicate easily with a group of friends or a single person.

The T190 features 20 pre-set phrases and five customizable personal messages, enabling users to send speedy SMS messages by applying pre-set phrases to SMS messages. Create and store your personal greetings like "Let's meet at the usual

place" or select the pre-set phrases to say "I'll be late". Whatever the occasion, the Motorola T190 makes it simple and easy to send SMS messages on the go.

Users can chat in absolute privacy with SMS chat. Either by initiating a chat session or accepting an incoming chat request, users can explore a new world of communication with SMS chat, trading secrets with friends in absolute confidentiality.

There is never a dull moment with the Motorola T190. Users have a choice of two animated screensavers which come to life and remain animated when the phone is not in use. Select the musician screensaver and see an adorable hippo beat the drums sending a flurry of pounding hearts thumping to the beat.

The Motorola T190 enables users to assign distinctive ringtones and SMS alerts for separate groups of friends and acquaintances. Users can identify incoming calls from specific caller groups and decide which calls to take.

Navigating the exciting features of the T190 is easy with Motorola's list-based Quick Access menu. With nine customizable shortcuts, users can easily apply shortcuts to frequently used functions. Slender and compact at just 68 cc and 101 grams, the T190 is the perfect companion for spirited youth to keep in touch with close friends and buddies.

Other key features of the T190 include: ITAP predictive text entry; VibraCall discreet alert; lifestyle profiling (enables users to customize phone settings which can be stored as six lifestyle profiles. Users going to the movies can simply activate the pre-set profile, activating silent ringer tones and alerts that have been stored); three exciting games — Snakes, Tetris and Box World; 27 pre-set alert tones, an additional two ringtones can be downloaded via SMS; calculator; battery saving mode; standby time of up to 120 hours and talk time of up to 300 minutes. The Motorola T190 phone is available at all Globe Business Centers and authorized Cellstar branches and dealers nationwide.

The suggested retail price of the T190 is P5,990.

Motorola Inc. (NYSE:MOT) is a global leader in providing integrated communications and embedded electronic solutions. Sales in 2000 were US\$37.6 billion.



LYCEUM NORTHWESTERN AWARDED

The Lyceum Northwestern University in Dagupan City, Pangasinan, was recently awarded a University Charter by the Commission on Higher Education of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports during simple rites at Malacañang. Shown receiving the charter plaque from CHED chair Dr. Ester Garcia (fourth from left) is lawyer Gonzalo T. Duque, Lyceum Northwestern president (fifth from left). Also shown are (from left) Cesar Duque, trustee; lawyer Leonardo Sigulon-Reyna, trustee; Dr. Carlito Puno, CHED commissioner; Dr. Francisco Duque, trustee; Dr. Manuel Punzal, CHED commissioner; Dr. Salvador Duque, Lyceum chancellor; lawyer Ruth Duque; Mita Duque; and Dr. Carolina Duque.

DR. SALVADOR Z. ARANETA: EDUCATOR AND CHAMPION OF CAPITALISM FOR ALL

FEATI University proudly honors a founder of the University. A man of vision and courage, Dr. Salvador Z. Araneta called for a program of capitalism for all. This challenge must be heeded by the Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Administration and make it the top priority today.

Dr. Araneta explained capitalism for all does not mean taking away from the "haves" to give to the "have-nots", not by dividing the pie but increasing the size of the pie, in order to create new capitalist and industrial wealth.

His significant books, *Christian Democracy for the Philippines*, *The Bayanikasan Constitution - For the Federal Republic of the Philippines*, and *World Government, The United Nations Reborn - Charter and Supporting Views*, will be launched and released today at the Filipinas Heritage Library in Makati City, along with the commemorative stamp issued by the Philippine Postal Corporation.

A historical marker of the National Historical Institute will also be installed at the Gregorio Araneta University Foundation, the first private agricultural school after World War II which he founded and turned into a foundation.

Dr. Araneta strongly believed in the Filipino people, their innate good nature and their ability given the necessary tools and incentives.

Believing that every Filipino should be the beneficiary of our abundant natural resources, he fought the interventionist and exploitative policies of the United States so that conditions favorable to the establishment of local heavy industries could be realized.

As Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources under President Magsaysay, Dr. Araneta addressed the unemployment problem of two million Filipinos.

He proposed a new Deal Program of national development, similar to the "New Deal Package" of President Roosevelt. "If a government can spend money or create wealth to win a war, why not", he asked, "to win a war on poverty?"

To solve the squatters problem and decongest Manila, he urged that squatters be relocated to well-planned agro-industrial settlements in less populated regions. At the same time, he said government should give incentives for the establishment of industries to provide employment for the transferees.

"A family owning a home is a great stabilizing factor. It provides the family a sense of security and self-respect," Dr. Araneta said. Thus he urged entrepreneurs to go into a bold low-cost housing program.

His campaign to "Buy Filipino, Protect Filipino Retailers and Industries, particularly infant industries" is not only relevant under today's conditions, it has also become a matter of survival.

Mabuhay ang Filipino, Mabuhay si Dr. Araneta! From the FEATI Board of Trustees, Officers, Students, Employees, and Alumni.

Go High! (The FEATI Story)

"Enlightenment and service for God and country" is Feati University's commitment in the new millennium.

This is the principle that Dr. Salvador Araneta, the founder of Feati, stood for in his lifetime. The university is joining the various events to celebrate Dr. Araneta's birth centenary today including the presentation of a commemorative stamp issued by the Philippine Postal Corporation, the launch of three books containing his speeches and writings, the unveiling of a National Historical Institute historical marker, and a eucharistic offering of 100 masses for universal peace.

Dr. Araneta, in his thought-provoking book, *Educational Philosophy of a University President*, written in 1971, has a chapter titled "The Song for Universal Peace," wherein he wrote, "A civilization geared to technology to remain viable must constantly lift the levels of human civilization. The age of plenty is not only possible, but a necessity." But a "spiritual advancement" must also run parallel to material progress.

Dr. Reynaldo Pena, Feati University's newly appointed president, has vowed to stand by Dr. Araneta's principles. Dr. Pena, former director of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), is the fourth president of the University, the successor of Mr. Jose M. Segovia.

With the new president, the University's thrust is enlightenment in knowledge and human values for the individual to be of better service to God, country and family.

Feati's story has been one of daring and courage. Pioneering in aviation right after the war, the Far Eastern Air Transport Inc. was founded by Dr. Araneta and Eugenio Lopez and rose from the devastation of the city of Manila. It started with local flights and then expanded to include flights to Hong Kong, Shanghai (China) and San Francisco (USA). In no time, "Go High" meant a ride above the sky aboard a Feati aircraft.

The school was founded in 1946 by Dr. Araneta and his wife, Victoria Lopez Araneta, originally meant to service the needs of the aircraft. However, in 1965, aside from aeronautical engineering, Feati University opened courses in marine engineering. Since its inception, Feati's Maritime Education Department under the Institute of Engineering and Technology has been consistent in its mission to produce world-caliber deck and engine officers.

Feati's Maritime Department is a quality-assured department duly certified by an international classification body in 2001 to have conformed with the BS EN ISO 9001:1994. It is also duly registered and certified by AJA Registrars Ltd. and has been issued by CHED a confirmation that it complies with the rigid requirements of the commission.

For the school year 2002, Feati University welcomes its incoming



Dr. Araneta (extreme right) with former President DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL, left, and Prime Minister TUNKU ABDUL RAKMAN PUTRA AL-HAJ of the Federation of Malaya (now Malaysia) during the Prime Minister's investiture at the Araneta University in 1959.

enrollees with P40 million worth of physical improvements and scholarships to honor the birth centenary of Dr. Araneta.

In store are the following: P17 million worth of additional laboratory equipment, books and other facilities, P10 million worth of renovated classrooms and offices, P10 million more for the Salvador Araneta Centenary scholarship, and the re-opening of the high school department.

The high school curriculum, however, will be infused with appropriate technical subjects to provide the students

with both academic and practical skills. Thus, it will become a technical high school offering additional training courses in the following areas: computer education, CADD, automotive technology, practical electricity, radio/TV mechanic, machine shop technology, refrigeration and air-conditioning and computer graphics animation. This means that after graduation, students are better equipped to face the future and make a choice—either to proceed to college or temporarily stop schooling to work.

The school's computer center has also been updating its system with the

latest software for architecture, arts and engineering. The Aeronautical Department located at the newly renovated Paterno Building has added a Cessna light aircraft for the practical training of aeronautical students. The Marine Department, on the other hand, has installed new state-of-the-art simulators equipped with highly innovative communication and navigational tools, including a local station for the global positioning of receivers. Other departments in arts and sciences have also upgraded their respective equipment and laboratories.

Feati University takes pride in honoring its founder with these accomplishments and looks forward to producing graduates ready to meet the challenges of the new millennium.



Nationalists all! (L-R) DR. SALVADOR ARANETA, CLARO M. RECTO (who wrote the foreword of Araneta's book *Christian Democracy for the Philippines*) and GENERAL EMILIO AGUINALDO, the first President of the Philippine Republic.

To the Family of Dr. Salvador Z. Araneta

Please accept our family's sincerest felicitations on the occasion of the Centennial Birth Anniversary of Dr. Salvador Zaragoza Araneta.

We have nothing but the highest esteem for Dr. Araneta not only for his truly nationalistic approach to the development of education in our country, most especially in the field of agriculture and related sciences, but also for his exemplary service to our nation as Secretary of Agriculture under the Administration of President Ramon Magsaysay. My late father, Foreign Secretary Narciso R. Ramos had the privilege of working closely with Dr. Araneta during the Ministers' Meeting of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee in Singapore in 1955, where they served as alternate leaders for the meeting. Working together, they were able to come up with the first Comprehensive Philippine Report on the Colombo Plan. As emerging leaders during the Commonwealth period, both of them were considered among the articulate young Filipinos advocating Philippine independence.

As we celebrate the centennial of Dr. Araneta's birth, it is heartening to see that the seeds of his vision have taken hold and grown, and are being propagated by the administration, faculty, students, and alumni of his legacy, the Gregorio Araneta University Foundation.

We hope that more of our fellow countrymen and women follow the example of this outstanding Filipino.

Mabuhay!!!

Fidel V. Ramos
Fidel V. Ramos
Former President
Republic of the Philippines
1992 - 1998



Don Salvador Araneta



Jose Concepcion Jr.



Jose Concepcion III

Three Generations, One Vision.

Celebrating 100 Years of Dr. Salvador Z. Araneta

It all started with a man and his dream.

Dr. Salvador Araneta, noted nationalist-constitutionalist, philanthropist and pioneer in agro-industrial development, first envisioned a Philippines that would have its own flour milling capabilities, to reduce the country's dependence on flour imports. In August 1957, despite opposition from foreign interests and local traders, Dr. Araneta founded Republic Flour Mills Inc., the first flour mill in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia.

A highly principled man with unquestionable integrity, Dr. Araneta was an inspiration to many of his colleagues and those whose lives he touched. He left a legacy founded on love for his Creator, his country and his desire to help build a strong Filipino. These ideals have been upheld by the two generations that succeeded him at the Presidency of RFM: the equally

passionate nationalist Jose Concepcion Jr.; and Jose Concepcion III, widely known as a highly-driven young entrepreneur who built strong Filipino food and beverage brands like Cosmos/Pop Cola and Sarsi Rootbeer, Selecta, White King and Swift.

Don Salvador's faith in the strength and conquering spirit of the Filipino remains as the foundation for the robust growth of RFM. What started out as a simple flour mill, is now one of the leading food and beverage conglomerates in the country.

As we celebrate the 100th birth anniversary of our founder, Dr. Salvador Araneta, we at RFM pay tribute to the moving spirit behind this company, and commit to carry on his vision, his ideals, his passion, and his faith in the Filipino.



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In Loving Memory
on the 15th Death Anniversary of

Rufino R. Santos Jr.

who passed away on January 31, 1987

Holy Masses will be offered at the following:

St. Andrew, The Apostle Parish Church 6:30 AM
 N. Garcia Street, Bel Air, Makati City 6:30 PM
 St. Roque Parish Church 6:00 AM
 Pateros, Metro Manila
 San Pedro Parish Church 6:00 AM
 San Pedro, Laguna
 St. Francis Parish Church 7:00 AM
 Mandaluyong City
 The National Shrine of the Sacred Heart 7:00 AM
 Dao, San Antonio Village, Makati City
 St. John Bosco Parish 7:30 AM
 Arnaiz Street, Makati City
 Santuario de San Antonio 12:15 PM
 Forbes Park, Makati City
 Holy Rosary Cathedral 12:10 PM
 Vancouver, BC, Canada
 Garden of Memories 4:00 PM
 Pateros, Metro Manila

His wife Aurora, children Ronald & Cherry, Roy (†),
 Rico & Jenny, and grandson Rufino Vincent request relatives
 and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

IRENE CORVITE FIGUEROA

of Pacita Complex, San Pedro, Laguna
 Joined her Creator on Jan. 26, 2002 at the age of 36.

Her bereaved husband Ferdie Figueroa; children
 Justin, Nicole and Kevin; parents Rodolfo Sr. and
 Zenaída; brothers Boots and Marlon; mother-in-law
 Esther; brothers and sisters-in-law Alfred, Girlie, Arvin
 and Luchie; nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends
 request the pious readers to join them in praying for her
 journey to eternal life.

Her remains lie in state at the Sto. Rosario Parish
 Church, Pacita Complex, San Pedro, Laguna.

Interment will be on Saturday, Feb. 2, 2002 at the
 Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the
 8:30 AM Mass at Sto. Rosario Church.

SALVADOR GONZALES
SARABIA SR., O.D.

Has peacefully joined our Creator
on the 28th day of January 2002.

We the family Amparo Divinagracia Sarabia;
 Daughters Sandra & Ray Gomez, Suzanne (†) & Celso Javelosa, Rosalie &
 Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Trefias, Gina & Atty. Jose Espinosa III;
 Sons Salvador Jr. & Teresa Sebastian, Dr. Ramon & Dra. Marcia Guanio,
 Dr. Federico IV, Dr. Melvin Marie and Dr. John Paul.

Sisters Salvation (†), Iluminada, Ester, Rosalia and Marissa;
 Brothers Federico Jr. (†), Jesus (†), Francisco (†), Manuel (†),
 Antonio, Carlos and Rico.

Sisters-in-law Milagros Soto (†), Amalia Valencia, Filomena Moreno,
 Lourdes Almeda Lopez, Nelly Sanga, Ester.

Brothers-in-law Alberto Asparilla (†), Crisogono Malapitan (†),
 Antonio Bernardo (†), Nomeriano Brillantes (†).

Grandchildren Felix III and Marissa, Mary Pauline and Augusto Jr.,
 Mark, Salvador III, Red, Alejandro, Margaret, Katrina, Mae,
 Martha, Bernice, Katherine, Christopher, Samantha, Albert, Kimberly,
 Benjie, Raisa, Carlo, Miguel, Gerry Jr., Paolo, Regine, Patricia, Beatrice
 and Christina.

Great-grandchildren Bettina and Justin Enrique.

Relatives and dear friends request the pious readers to pray for the
 eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Sarabia Residence, Dungon A, Jaro, Iloilo City.

Interment will be at Christ the King Memorial after the 1:00 p.m. Mass
 at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Jaro, Iloilo City
 on Sunday, February 3, 2002.

Always caring...

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On the 17th Death Anniversary of

HONORIO POBLADOR, JR.

February 1, 2002

Holy Masses will be offered in his memory on February 1, 2002
 at the following churches:

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 Welfarville, City of Mandaluyong 6:00 a.m.
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 Little Baguio, San Juan, Metro Manila 6:00 a.m.
 SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE
 Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila 7:15 a.m.
 SAN MIGUEL PRO-CATHEDRAL
 Gen. Solano, San Miguel, Manila 7:00 a.m.
 OUR LADY OF SORROWS PARISH
 F.B. Harrison Street, Pasay City 7:00 a.m.
 SAN FELIPE NERI PARISH
 City of Mandaluyong 6:00 a.m.
 DON BOSCO MAKATI
 Pusay Road, City of Makati 6:00 p.m.
 SAINT ANDREW PARISH
 Bel-Air, City of Makati 6:30 p.m.
 SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO
 Forbes Park, City of Makati 6:00 p.m.
 ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DELIGUORI CHURCH
 Magallanes Village, City of Makati 6:00 p.m.
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 SACRED HEART SHRINE
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 SAN ANTONIO PARISH
 Bacolod City 7:00 a.m.

His family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to
 pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord,
 for You are with me." Psalm 23:4

FRANCISCO XAVIER LIM TUPAS

(January 31, 1954 - January 24, 2002)

has peacefully joined his Lord and Savior at the age of 47. His bereaved wife EDNA BAUDILLA;
 children JUAN ALBERTO (Juancho) and JOSE ENRICO (Nico); mother NORA LIM-TUPAS;
 siblings BONG, SONNY, BUDDY, and ANNA; BROTHERS-IN-LAW, SISTERS-IN-LAW,
 NEPHEWS, and NIECES, request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

He was Executive Director-Editor of *Science Club Magazine*, Chief Executive Officer of *Academe
 Publishing House, Inc.*, Director of *Alberto Enrico Educational Center*, and Board Chairman of
 the *National Environmental Watchers Society (NEWS)*.

His remains lie in state at *Daughters of Divine Zeal*, 151 Libra Street, Cinco Hermanos Subdivision,
 Marikina City. Necrological service will be held at 7:00 PM on January 31, 2002 - on his birth
 anniversary. Interment will be at the *Loyola Memorial Park*, Marikina City in the morning of Friday,
 February 1, after the 9:00 o'clock Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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BARBIE PARADE ON ICE

Barbie created thrills and excitement to young girls last Christmas as she celebrated her Nutcracker Christmas party at a most unique venue on ice, the SM Megamall Ice Skating Rink. The venue was dressed up as the Barbie Kingdom, with exciting booth gimmicks such as henna tattooing, face and nail painting and a kids' salon. The party was open to all Barbie Fan Club members and non-members alike, and kicked off with a special ice skating performance by the Sugar Plum Princess and Prince Eric, with the cute little fairies of SM Megamall Ice Skating Rink also making their own interpretation of Barbie in the Nutcracker. An interesting audiovisual presentation of the evolution of Barbie as ballerina was shown. A most-awaited moment was the Princess Barbie Ballerina costume contest. 46 lovely little girls played princess for a day. The three best costumes were picked. Winners brought home Barbie in the Nutcracker dolls and special gift certificates from Richwell Trading Corp. Among the judges for the contest were Katherine de Castro, Gemma Fernandez, Karen Padilla, Nadia Trinidad of ABS-CBN and sponsors Rosalie Saucio of Goldilocks, Cita Rosales of David's Salon and Shirley Tan of Grand Alphatech. The show was presented by Richwell Trading Corp. and SM Megamall Ice Skating Rink in cooperation with Clover Chips, Goldilocks, David's Salon, Chips Delight, Goldrush Kuris, Kameraworld, Choco-coated Mallows Wiggles, Jack 'n Jill Pretzels, Nips and Swiss Miss Milk Shake.

Pediatric critical society convention set Feb. 3

THE SOCIETY of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine Philippines is holding its annual convention titled "Demystifying Pediatric Critical Care" which will be held on Feb. 3 to 5 at the Marriott Hotel in Cebu City.

Invited foreign speakers include Dr. Quen Quen Mok, lead clinician of the pediatric and neonatal intensive care units of Great Ormond St. Hospital for Children in London, England; Dr. Enrique M. Ostrea Jr., director of neonatology from Hutzel Hospital, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan; and Dr. Irene Chan, pediatric intensivist from Singapore University Hospital. Outstanding speakers from local institutions will also be giving lectures during the convention. For inquiries, call (at Cebu) Dr. Ronald V. Limchiu at (032) 253-6531, Dr. Ramon Najarro at (032) 254-1919, Dr. Edgardo Martin Serafica at (032) 254-1545. In Manila, call Dr. Mary Mae L. Quano at 732-7597, PCMC Picu Fellow at 924-6601 local 238 or 262, and PGH Picu Fellow at 525-6625.

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The pleasures of spa treatment

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For those who want to be relaxed and revitalized, the Aromatherapy package is just right for you. It releases tension and restores balance to make you feel always on the go. For those who walk around a lot and would like to give their feet a break, let loose with the Foot-loose package—a combination of body and foot massage that would put you back on your toes. For a more refreshing look and for softer, smoother face, skin and body, indulge in a Face and Skin Beautifier package. It includes a facial massage, and

The South Spa is located at the ground floor of Kingswood Tower, Pasong Tamo corner Vito Cruz Extension. For inquiries, call 895-4420, 895-4029 or 895-4782. The South Spa is open Monday to Sunday, 12 noon to 10:30 p.m.



MFI CHAIR GETS PNU DOCTORATE

Metrobank Foundation chair George S.K. Ty received from Philippine Normal University the degree of Doctor of Humanities, honoris causa, in conferment ceremonies held at the PNU quadrangle recently. The degree was formally conferred by university president Lilia Garcia (left) and board of regents and CHED chair Ester Garcia (right) on Ty for his exemplary achievements in the field of public service. Ty was cited especially for his enduring contribution to the improvement of Philippine education and the promotion of teachers' welfare. The university specifically noted that through Metrobank Foundation's nationwide search for outstanding teachers, an annual program established by Ty in 1985, exceptional models of competence, professionalism and integrity among Filipino mentors have been properly honored. Ty established the Metrobank Foundation in 1979. PNU's honoris causa to Ty was only the 17th given in the university's 100-year history. It is Ty's third doctoral degree.



COLGATE-PALMOLIVE PROMO WINNER

Colgate-Palmolive Philippines, with one of its distributors Delta Distribution Corp., has just concluded the successful 'Salamat Suki' promotion. Shown is the grand raffle prize winner Ricardo Mallari (third from left) receiving his Sony Wega TV set. Also shown is (from left) Arjay Javier, distribution sales manager of CPPI; Rocky Motos, sales supervisor of DDC, Joji Bandong, distribution sales manager of CPPI, Jo Alcomedras, sales officer of DDC, and Achille Guintu, administrative officer of DDC.



Bottled up

Q. Why is there cotton stuffed in prescription and over-the-counter medicine bottles?

A. The cotton is there mainly to prevent rattling and subsequent breakage of pills during shipment. But why cotton? Because of its absorbency, cotton helps medications dry. As any pharmacist will tell you, moisture will destroy most drugs. Still, most pharmacists recommend taking out the cotton once the container is opened for use. Cotton's absorptive characteristics are also capable of absorbing moisture from the environment. If the cotton gets wet and re-enters the bottle, the effectiveness of the medication is jeopardized.

Take a Tip. Excess heat and light are also capable of breaking down medications. For this reason, it makes no sense to keep medicines in the kitchen, where they are exposed to the heat of ovens, or in the bathroom, where warmth and humidity shorten their life. And you don't want to reach for nose drops in the night and use mouthwash or something even more harmful by mistake. What you eliminate is important too. Since children get into wastebaskets, flush these things away: aspirin that smells vinegary; prescription medicines from a former illness; any medicine older than its expiration date; over-the-counter medicines you no longer need; and, any medicine without a label or not in its original container.

Past Forward. This day in 1747: The world's first clinic for the treatment of venereal diseases opened at the Lock Hospital in London.

WORD WATCH

Gonorrhea (gan uh ree uh) : from the Greek *gonos* ('seed, semen') + *rhecin* ('to flow').

Rotary youth leadership awards

THE ROTARY District 3790, in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Baguio, will play gracious host to this year's Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (Ryla), which has been set Feb. 1 to 3. The affair will be attended by different Rotaract and Interact clubs from the same district. A full day has also been devoted to athletics, with no less than top shoeline Nike acting as major sponsor.



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*Participants are required to complete three courses before they are allowed to enroll in this course.

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 - Lot 2 - consisting of various unserviceable personal computers, printers and accessories stored at SSS Bagbag property
Minimum Bid Price: P10,000.00
 - Lot 3 - consisting of existing central airconditioning unit and accessories at the SSS Main Office, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Minimum Bid Price: P100,000.00
 - Lot 4 - consisting of unserviceable Pitney Bowes Mailing Machine located at the Mailing Section, Office Services Department, Second Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Minimum Bid Price: P10,000.00
 - Lot 5 - consisting of unserviceable two (2) units A.B. Dick Offset Machine located at the Printing Division, Office Services Department, Annex Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Minimum Bid Price: P15,000.00
 - Lot 6 - one (1) unit of unserviceable motor vehicle, Nissan California (SBY-252) located at SSS East Avenue property motor pool
Minimum Bid Price: P20,000.00
 - Lot 7 - one (1) unit of unserviceable motor vehicle, Kia Ceres (SDF-844) located at SSS East Avenue property motor pool
Minimum Bid Price: P10,000.00
 - Lot 8 - one (1) unit of unserviceable motor vehicle, Toyota Tamaraw FX (SEA-763) located at SSS East Avenue property motor pool
Minimum Bid Price: P30,000.00

List of pre-qualification requirements must be obtained from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat, Sixth Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City with telephone numbers 922-2991 and 920-8401 local 2379/2380. Below is the deadline for the submission of pre-qualification documents, at the same address.

Item No.	Deadline
Item 1	February 20, 2002
Item 2	February 21, 2002
Item 3	February 22, 2002

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the System. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the System guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) ERNESTO G. GASIS
Assistant Vice President and Acting Chairman
Bids & Awards Committee

MOTORING

Cesar D. Mangawang, Editor

Intelligent, 'connected' cars

WHEN I was riding in my brother's 2001 Mercedes-Benz E320 in New York last August, he told me that if his car is stolen, it can be tracked down easily via the Global Positioning System. If he forgets his key inside and can't open his car, all he has to do is call and the 24-hour roadside assistance service the Benz is connected to will send a signal to his car's computer to open the door. If he has an accident and the air bags deploy, the doors will automatically unlock, an emergency cell-phone signal will automatically call for help and the car's hazard lights will be activated automatically.

The MB E320 is not the only highly computerized car connected to this kind of high-tech roadside assistance service in the United States. It is also available for BMWs, (Honda) Accuras, (Toyota) Lexuses, Lincolns, Jaguars and 36 of the 54 models of General Motors, including the 2001 Chevrolet Venture minivan.

The new BMW 745i, for one, has been dubbed "one huge high tech highlight" by Car and Driver Magazine because of its iDrive rotary dial controlling 700 cockpit functions, its 60 onboard computers and 85 electric motors. BMW Assist Online, integrated into the iDrive concept, offers the driver a mobile Internet gateway and the following services: e-mail with a message sent directly to his mobile phone; address book; yellow pages; latest politics, sports and business news; stock exchange quotations; city guide and travel information and a 3D view of the current location of the car from a bird's eye view. The online services can be adjusted and supplemented any time to meet the driver's new requirements simply via a software update.

The driver can access all these services via the Controller and Control Display in the center of the dashboard. If the driver wants to keep his eyes on the road, he can retrieve information and services alternatively through voice input and output. The new BMW 7-Series has an optional voice processing system whereby the driver can activate a total of 270 functions and subfunctions by voicing simple command messages. If he makes a mistake, the system will give him a clear, friendly message informing him of his error in usage and how to correct it.

But when it comes to number of subscriptions to a 24-hour roadside assistance service using voice-recognition software and cell-phone lines, GM is the industry leader. When GM started its OnStar service in 1996, around 1,000 customers signed up in North America, Alec Klein of the Washington Post Service re-

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza



ported in a recent article. By 2001, that number had risen to nearly two million.

OnStar subscribers can choose the basic package that includes stolen-vehicle tracking, remote-door unlocking and emergency roadside assistance (\$16.95 a month) or pay more (\$69.95 a month) for the whole works, the "Luxury & Leisure" package. The latter includes not only the services of the no-frills version but also the services of a personal concierge who will make dinner reservations or place a pickup order at a restaurant per your request or buy movie tickets for you.

Mr. Klein writes that in the GMC Yukon (the Chevy Suburban's twin), a microphone is located near the rearview mirror and the OnStar "On-Off" button is next to the glove compartment. When the buyer of the Yukon test-drove it and pressed the button, he heard "Doo-doo-doo-doo, connecting to OnStar" and a real human voice say, "Welcome to OnStar. How can I help you, Mr. (the buyer's name)?"

"Where am I?" the buyer asked and OnStar gave the vehicle's exact location: street, town and state. The buyer said, "Lock the doors" and automatically, shoo-shunk—the sound of doors locking. The buyer was so impressed, Mr. Klein reports, that two weeks later he subscribed to the "Luxury & Leisure" OnStar package.

Critics of the telematics service, however, think it is overpriced and point out that in an emergency, you can use a cell phone to call for help. Others are wary of invasion of their privacy, since the service can track subscribers' every move on the road. What if GM sells this information in future to third parties who can then flood subscribers with advertisements while they drive?

But GM isn't doing that right now, Mr. Klein says. Perhaps OnStar is too busy with its next project, a program in the Detroit area that would enable drivers to remotely control home doors, lights, security systems and even the thermostat.

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: A husband is living proof women have a sense of humor.

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph

A short drive draws lasting impressions

Text and photo By Tessa R. Salazar

NOT a sprinter, but a marathoner.

That was my first impression of BMW's latest sports car (with an M Badge at that), the BMW 318iA M-Sport, when I got hold of its reins.

I managed to hold on to the steering wheel for 129 kilometers—from Makati to Punta Baluarte in Calatagan, Batangas—exhilarated by the rushing Batangas fresh air and BMW's valvetronic.

BMW brags that its valvetronic runs on all grades and types of commercially available gasoline, and enhances fuel economy by 10 percent compared to its previous models. BMW Philippines also brags that its new BMW has one of the few four-cylinder engines that offer 5-speed automatic transmission variants.

Head-turning BMWs

Now we felt what BMW kept bragging about. Six head-turning BMW 318iAs—three of which were M Sport, one Executive, and two current 318iA models—gobbled up the smooth, winding provincial roads. At the end of the drive, the motoring press felt like the cars had it too easy.

The easy highway just couldn't bring out the sophistication of the Automatic Stability Control and Traction. Some were a bit more creative, though. Philippine Star's Brian Afuang and CI Magazine editor in chief Kenneth Quintal performed several skids on the rough parking lot in Punta while everybody else was sleeping. Naughty them.

Yes, the "ultimate driving ma-



BMW 318 M-Sport—The wider kidney grille characterizes the car—more prominence for greater visual impact. The bonnet brings on a more aggressive style. The headlights and the turn indicators are curvier.

chine" (and, ahem, the "ultimate press drivers") deserved a more challenging track. That's a track away from public roads and "lesser" vehicles such as tricycles, jeepneys and other cars. Perhaps, the Batangas race tracks would have sufficed.

Oh, well. The drive was enough for us to taste the grip of the car on the road, which we found superb.

It was my second time to drive a car with steptronic gear. As usual, it gave me the flexibility to drive lazy at "D" on stop-and-go traffic in Manila, and be a zippy Road Runner in the open provincial highways. The M1 to M4 shifts function pretty much like the manual 1 to 4. Shift the gear to the extreme left and nudge to upshift.

Its solid and heavy body gave out

the "thuds" on rough roads that only a P2.3 million car could utter. It also came with a skirt so low you could hit the parking lot pavement if you weren't careful. And it had not one single cupholder. Well, silly me, should I look for one in a sports car?

The BMW 318M Sport is smooth, all right. Because there is no engine vibration, you won't feel the speed building up until you see objects ahead becoming larger and faster than you anticipated.

The 318iA M Sport, just like the rest of the new BMW 3 series, carries with it the new generation valvetronic engine. It has a higher engine displacement—2 liters—than the current BMW 318 model, which has 1.9 liters. It has more power at 16 valves (the current model has only 8 valves) pulling

143 bhp which its maker claims is 21 percent stronger than the previous model. It has a top speed of 214 km and accelerates from 0 to 100 km/h in 10.2 seconds.

Under the hood

BMW credits its new engine's fuel economy to its throttle-free load control that has a full variable valve timing, increasing the car's potential of reducing fuel consumption on gas engine. The valvetronic enables the engine to breathe without the redundant throttle butterfly which is experienced on conventional engines, explained BMW Philippines Corp. service director Gabor Csurgai. The throttle butterfly, if not fully open, generates loss of power and wastes fuel. Gabor explained that BMW's new engine decreases fuel consumption and emission as well as improves performance agility regardless of fuel quality.

Gabor said that's what we should expect from the 318iA sedan, 318iA Executive and the 318M Sport. The other 2002 model lineups are the 316iA Executive and the 325iA Executive.

That solid (albeit bulky) feel breathed stability in my two days of driving the new BMW. I would liken that "bulk" to a "safety rein" on an impulsive horse.

And what is an impulsive horse? It is a wild stallion that runs too fast for its own good. This is characteristic of other sports cars that could zoom impulsively in a snap, but with no sufficient braking mechanism to bring all that power to a safe halt.

Which brings me to my first impression of the BMW 318iA M Sport: it won't win you the 100-meter dash. It could easily get you the 10,000 meters.

Leisure bike for the young ones

By Charles E. Buban

CALL it hybrid but this latest bike from Honda Philippines is among its most versatile two-wheelers ever launched. The first and only one of its kind in the country today, the Honda XRM is a cross between a family cub type and an on- and off-road bike.

With looks that mimic its enduro racing cousins, the XRM is powered by an air-cooled 4 stroke, overhead camshaft engine (with 110 cc engine displacement), making itself very fuel-efficient and dependable in various driving conditions. "The XRM is definitely designed for today's fast paced and dynamic lifestyle of Filipinos, especially the younger generation," said Hiroshi Sekiguchi, president of Honda Philippines.

The XRM is the company's first motorcycle designed for Filipinos. "When our Honda research and development team conceived this

model three years ago, we took into consideration the Filipino riders who are looking for versatility and good looks in their motorcycles. We are proud for giving them the XRM, which truly captures their taste," explained Sekiguchi of the new model pegged at P49,800.

Sporty looks

The XRM's sporty front and attractive side body frames are beefed up with features that enhance its versatility: easy-to-use electric and kick starter; capacitor discharge ignition system for fuel-efficient combustion; rear suspension for durability and reliability; utility box for more secure compartment; and a front disc brake unit for strength and more control during off-road driving condition.

"We want to capture the younger market that not only uses motorcycles in city driving but to other places as well like beaches and mountain trails. The XRM will defi-

nately take them there," assured Sekiguchi.

For many years, Honda has consistently earned a reputation as a trusted brand in motorcycle. During the XRM launch in Cebu

City, Sekiguchi stressed that the XRM symbolizes the company's search for a different breed of motorcycle that captures their customers' passion for fun and adventure.



THE XRM is intended for Filipino riders who are looking versatility and good looks in their motorcycles.

New GM Autoworld opens

ANOTHER GM Autoworld recently opened on Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong. GM Autoworld offers sales and service of Chevrolet, Opel, Suzuki and Subaru vehicles.

The Shaw branch is the fifth of the GM Autoworld dealership located nationwide.

Said Raul Evangelista, GM Shaw general manager: "This new branch shows the commitment of General Motors to the Philippine market. It is also their effort to give consumers a comprehensive automotive retail and service facility."

Like the other GM dealers, GM

Autoworld Shaw boasts of an extensive line of vehicles from passenger cars, vans and sports utility vehicles. GM Shaw is a one-stop convenience shop that offers top-of-the-line vehicles like Opel, a premium German-engineered car; Chevrolet, the US leading car and SUV brand; Suzuki, the Japanese small car expert; and Subaru, the most popular 4x4 maker.

Aside from vehicle sales, the shop also offers a wide range of car servicing, from periodic maintenance check, major repair and body and paint services.

Accord No. 1 again; Toyota unveils F1 car

I HAVE to raise my glass once more to Honda. Reason? The Honda Accord was the best-selling car in America in 2001, according to a review of auto industry sales figures released recently.

With sales of 414,718, the Accord topped the second place Toyota Camry, which reported sales of 390,449 in 2001. The Ford Taurus finished in third place with 353,560. In fourth place was the Honda Civic at 331,780.

The Civic also repeated as the best-selling compact car for the fifth consecutive year.

The Accord last held the top sales spot from 1989 to 1991, and has continued to be one of the three best-selling cars in America, along with the Taurus and Toyota Camry, in subsequent years.

More than 7.7 million Accords have been sold in the United States since they first went on sale in 1976. Currently about 85 percent of all Accords sold in the United States are produced in North America and those models have a domestic content level of 97 percent.

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza



One of the major reasons of traffic along Edsa is the bus stations near Aurora Boulevard.

Buses from those stations deliberately block the path of motorists, both during peak and nonrush hours.

Only when traffic enforcers are around that bus drivers start to behave. Otherwise, it's always chaos out there, with the jam extending all the way to Quezon Avenue up North and Camp Crame down South.

Toyota's Ove Andersson has revealed in a

press conference that he was pleased with their testing results this year on Toyota's Formula 1 car, despite criticism that the times set were far slower than those posted over Grand Prix weekends at the same tracks.

Andersson explained that development, not speed, has been the team's aim and that the majority of the lap times posted would have seen their drivers Mika Salo and Allan McNish qualify under the 107 percent rule.

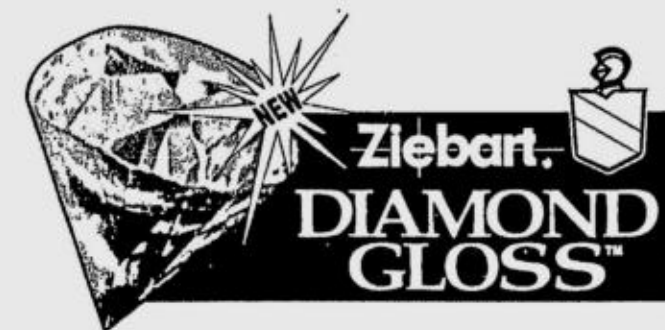
"What we were doing was ironing out problems in the car," he said. "At every test, we learned something new. With the times we have done and under the circumstances they have been done, and judging from the experience of the team at the moment, we are quite happy with what we are doing. With one or two exceptions, we would have qualified for the race with the times we did."

Toyota was the first to launch its 2002 F1 car, unwrapping it on Dec. 17.

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LIFESTYLE

Chelo Banal-Formoso, Editor



THE MAKUNOUCHI Bento set

At Sachi, one can reflect on the texture and temperature of the seafood noodles; the placid richness of the eel belly; the tenderness of fish raw or grilled



Small Japanese delights at the Big Dome

FEW may remember that Cubao once had an excellent Japanese restaurant called Matsuzaka House, more or less where the New Frontier Theater once was. Today there is a new one: Sachi, at the Araneta Coliseum Circle, proximate to the box office, and beside Café Bola (tel. 421-3410/911-3101 local 8372). It is owned by Sachiko Hirano, whose Sakura Restaurant in Subic is popular. Open 10 a.m.-10 p.m. daily, it seats 75 indoors and in two private rooms, but also has tables on the wide Big Dome sidewalk. It offers traditional Japanese cuisine prepared by executive chef Tadashi Noda.

All three of us worked or lived near Cubao, and yet had never heard of Sachi, not only because it opened only a few weeks earlier, but also because it has not sent out any publicity. The quality of its food will soon change this quiet profile, I am sure.

There are two lengthy and detailed menus, but we were all attracted to the one with photographs and descriptions of set meals. The Sashimi Set, for example, has mixed sashimi with mini-tempura, an appetizer, Japanese rice, miso soup, pickles and dessert. Marla Chorengel zeroed in immediately on the Yakisakana Set, with a choice of Shio Saba, Shio Sanma, Unagi Kabayaki (she chose the eel), mini-sashimi, appetizer, Japanese rice, miso soup, pickles and dessert.

We, of course, tasted each other's choices, and all approved. Angie Salazar's healthily delicious Hiyashi Tyuka Set: cold seafood noodles beautifully presented with six pieces tekamaki and small dishes. I had the Makunouchi Bento in enamel boxes on an enamel tray: mini-sashimi, nimono (simmered in broth), yakimono (grilled fish), agemono (deep-fried squid bits), appetizer, miso soup, rice, pickles and dessert. Small, kindly delights.

The Japanese aesthetic, expressed as shibui—understatement—is reflected in flower arrangements (ikebana), objets d'art (bowls, plates, chopsticks rests, tea-cups and pots), poetry (the 17-syllable haiku) and, of course, in food. Servings are never too large, even when hearty; they come in vari-shaped containers so that one may admire and reflect, as well as consume. You may remember the film "Tampopo," in which the wise old man taught younger folk how to eat a bowl of noodles: One reflects on the landscape of broth, meats and vegetables; one greets it and expresses grati-

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez



tude by tapping the bowl with chopstick; and then only one sips and eats.

Our sets reflected that: the texture and temperature of the seafood noodles; the placid richness of the eel belly; the tenderness of fish raw or grilled. One expresses contentment at the end, and never need complain of feeling surfeited or too full.

Lovely intermissions were, compliments of the chef, thin slices of Kobe beef—tender, tasty, with a whisper of sweetness; and Japanese oysters tempura—plump, juicy, bearing the freshness of the sea.

The more detailed menu without pictures lists everything else available outside the sets: teppanyaki cooked on a hot plate; nabemono one-pot dishes like sukiyaki and shabu-shabu; a rainbow of sushis like chirashi-zushi (topped with assorted seafood),

SMALL/ p.C2

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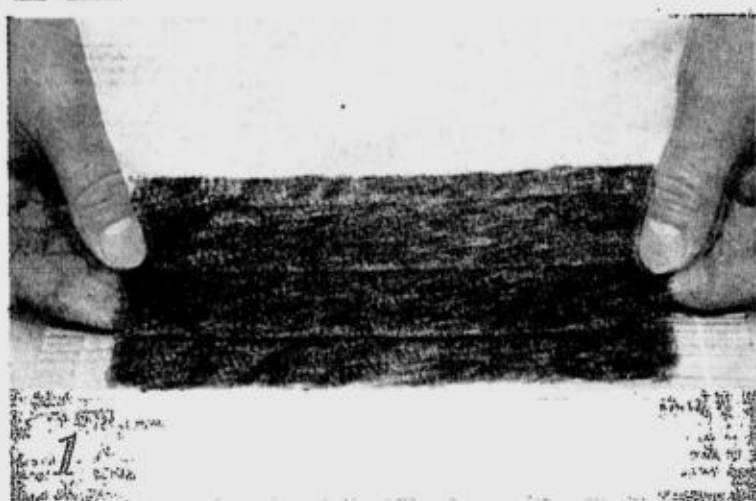
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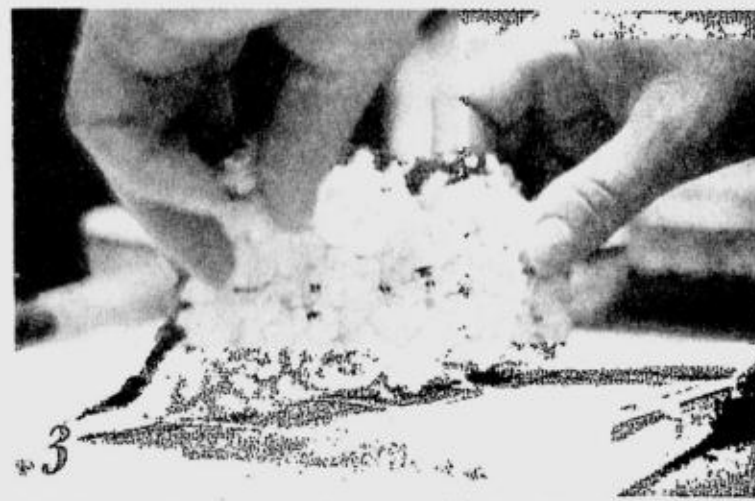
Use for a maximum of one week. If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.



1 CUT nori seaweed in half lengthwise. Place nori on bamboo mat, shiny side down.



2 SPREAD about 1/4 c of sushi rice evenly on nori. Do not pack the rice; rolling will take care of that.



3 TURN over the nori onto the mat so it's rice-side down.

Easy sushi: The secret is in the rice

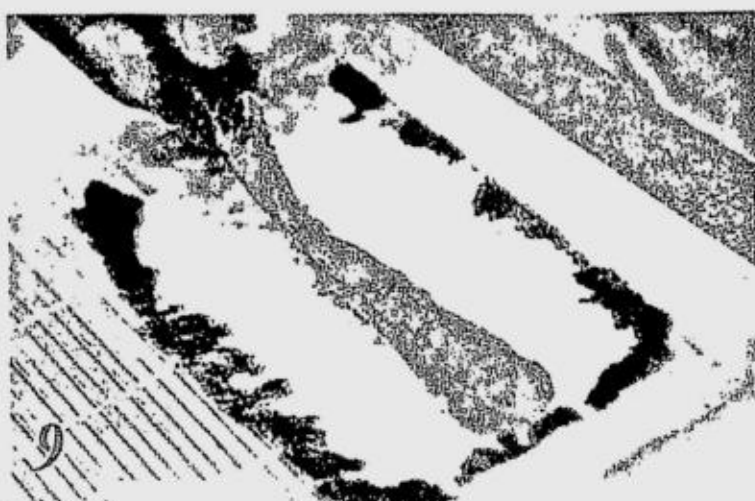
By Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Mike Alquinto

ONE of the advantages of making Japanese sushi is you don't need too many kitchen tools. You will only need a very sharp knife, a bamboo mat

STEP-BY-STEP

which is used to roll sushi and, most important, a pair of clean hands to spread the rice over the nori, a toasted seaweed sheet. However, the rice is almost always too sticky to hold so you have to moisten your hands with water every now and then.

Sushi types are many but all include rice. Kimpura sushi chef Eigo Irisawa says the secret of making sushi is actually in the rice. The rice must be short-grained rice, preferably Japanese or California rice, both available in local supermarkets. To make a good sushi rice, you will need 3 c rice and 3 c water. For the vinegar mixture, you will need 3 1/2 tsp Japanese vinegar (Del Monte or Lady's Choice), 1 1/2 tsp sugar and 2 tsp salt. Wash rice until water is clear. Measure the water and add to rice in a heavy pot. Set aside for 30 minutes. Bring to a boil. When cooked, turn off heat and allow to steam for 20 minutes.



4 TO MAKE tuna rolls, place nori on mat, spread sushi rice, put some wasabi in the center of the rice and add tuna.



5 ROLL up tightly and press ends. Slice into six, wetting knife after each cut.

Prepare vinegar mixture by mixing ingredients in a pan over heat. Stop the heat just before it comes to a boil.

To toss cooked rice with vinegar, prepare a non-metallic bowl (preferably wooden or glass). Put cooked

rice into the mixing bowl and spread it evenly in the bottom of the bowl. Sprinkle vinegar over the rice. You may not need all of the vinegar mixture. With a large wooden spoon, mix rice by slicing motion. While using a fan to aid cooling,



6 CUT into thirds or bite-size. Ready to serve.

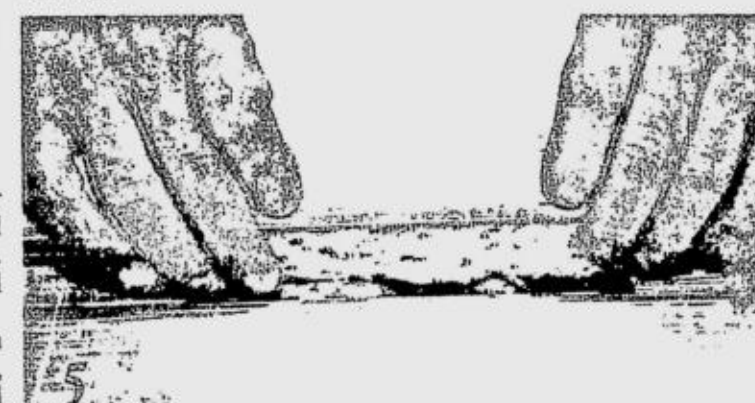
turn the hot rice so that the vinegar solution is well absorbed. Let it cool until it reaches room temperature. Keep sushi rice in the wooden bowl covered with a damp cloth.

For our readers, Chef Irisawa prepares California rolls (ebiku), which contain crabmeat or cooked shrimp, Japanese mayo (comes in convenient plastic squeeze bottles), avocado or ripe mango and cucumber rolled in fish roe.

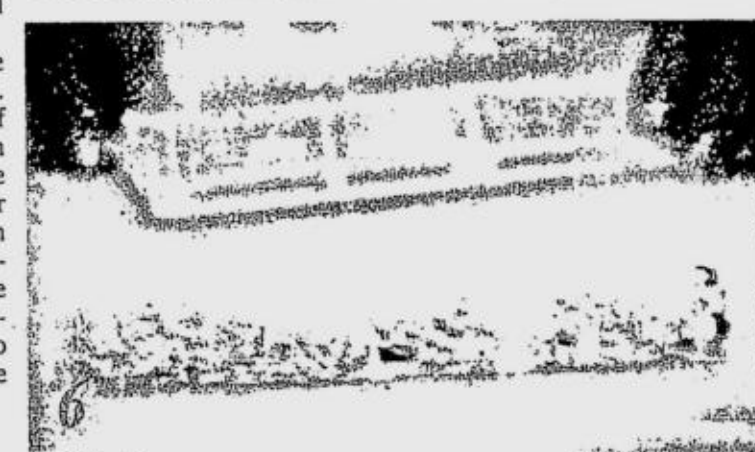
Chef Irisawa says sushi can be stuffed with just about anything. Once you have mastered the art of making a rolled sushi, you can make a variety of forms with the filling of your choice. Tuna rolls or tekkamaki, for instance, contain only raw tuna and wasabi (Japanese horseradish mustard). These rolls are made similar to the California rolls. The tuna is cut into long pieces about 3/8 width square



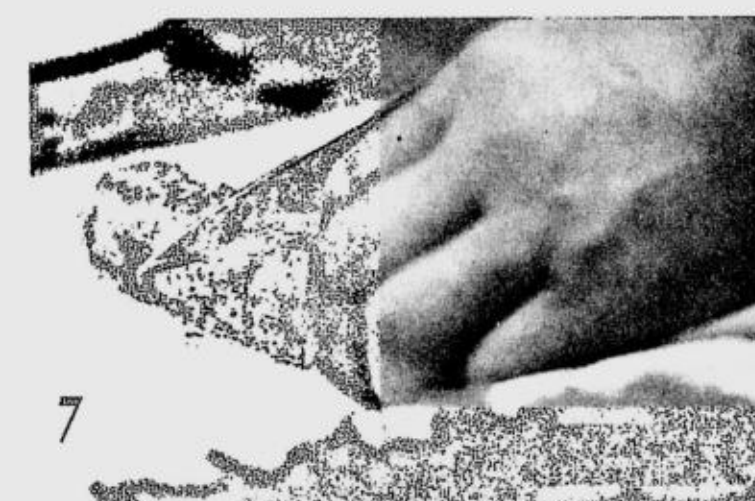
7 PUT some mayo in the center of nori. Add cucumber, mango and shrimps.



8 BEGIN rolling by lifting the mat over the nori.



9 REMOVE roll from mat.



10 SPRINKLE fish roe on the roll. Then, cut the roll in half, then fold two halves together.

and placed end to end of the nori. Serve sushi on a nice platter with thinly sliced ginger, finely shredded radish and wasabi.

Ingredients
2 pc (25 g) cooked shrimps
20 g ripe mango or avocado, stripped

1 Japanese cucumber, stripped
1 sheet nori seaweed
1 tsp Japanese mayonnaise
1 c sushi rice
Wasabi (optional)
Fish roe

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



JAPANESE sushi is delightful when dipped in Kikkoman soy sauce.

Small Japanese delights at the Big Dome

(From page C1)

makizushi (fresh fish and/or vegetables rolled in nori) and temakizushi (in black nori seaweed cones) and of course nigiri-zushi.

Formal dinner

There is as well the famous Kaisaki, a formal dinner menu of little dishes associated with the tea ceremony: aperitif, sakiduke (opening dish), appetizers, clear soup, sashimi, simmered dish, grilled dish, fried or steamed vinegared fish, shokujiki (rice, soup and pickles) and dessert.

Sachiko Hirano, owner, is a businesswoman who, with her late husband, supplied knitwear in Japan for almost 20 years. Her travels and experience of the best restaurants in the world has made her "think like a customer," sensitive and attuned to guests' tastes. What is at Sakura, is also at Sachi:

"Same quality, same management," she says.

On nigiri-zushi, for example, she says: It tastes better when eaten by hand. To eat it properly, "Pour a little soy sauce, dip the neta (topping) carefully in the soy, using a finger to stop the neta from falling off, then bring it directly to the mouth. There is no need to lace it with wasabi because the chef has dabbed some in the neta. Avoid total immersion in soy sauce; to do so is to drown a lovely creation and lose the respect of the chef."

Finally, I must add that the prices can be quite reasonable, if one does not focus only on the prime Japanese beef, and such flown-in delights as Japanese oysters. The sets range from P340 for the Yakitori Donburi Set (rice topped with grilled chicken, served with mini-sashimi, miso soup, pickles and dessert) through

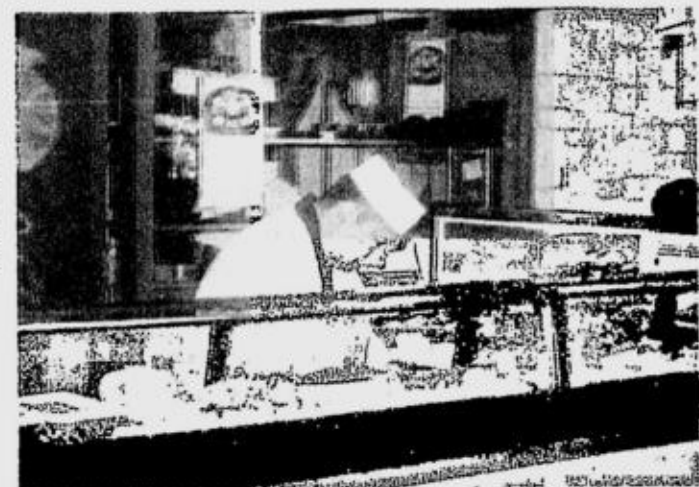
P370 (Tekkadonburi Set, Sushi Set) and P390 (Ebi Furai, Sukiyaki, Yose Nabe, Hiyashi Tyuka and Yakisakana), to P440 (for Makunouchi Bento) and P950 for Special Makunouchi Bento.

Such lunches for less than P500

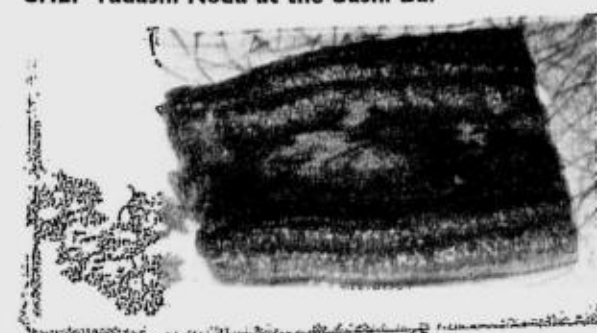
are rare these days, especially considering the high food quality. All told, prices, food excellence and especially the quiet ambiance, call one back away from the madding crowd and into an oasis of tranquility.



THE HIYASHI Tyuka cold seafood soba noodles



CHEF Tadashi Noda at the Sushi Bar



UNAGI Kebayaki grilled eel

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2002

Everything you've always wanted to know about catering

Creative Catering and Entertaining

By Lisa J. Alvendia

Anvil Publishing Inc., 2001, 338 pages

By Doreen G. Fernandez

THIS may well be the heaviest book of last season. It is not only the hard cover and the heavy coated paper; it is especially the heft of the contents: a complete guide to the catering profession.

Lisa Jacinto Alvendia and I have many personal links to, and I have been a witness to the process of her growing into a food professional and caterer,

REVIEW

which she narrates in her preface. She comes from Imus, Cavite, where her mother, Concepcion Topacio-Sayoc, taught her children how to cook, and her father, Dr. Carmelo Jacinto, told them tales of all the new restaurants he had been to in Manila. Lisa helped out occasionally in the family-owned restaurant called Plaza Canteen, where an old recipe of *pancit lang-lang* held sway.

Then there was Lisa cooking for family and friends, and trying out her ideas on enhancing food preparation and presentation. When her sister, Dr. Sylvia Jacinto, needed to serve a special dinner, Lisa gathered her best accessories into a sit-down dinner for 20, and a caterer was born. It helped, too, that she married into another cooking family, her husband Carmelino (Jun) Alvendia being the son of the late, well-known Esperanza Alvendia of the Jade Vine.

Manual

Lisa, now a professional caterer, has an unchanging motto: Make every party an event, and every event a party. The book "Creative Catering and Entertaining" compiles all that made her a professional, and is the first manual for catering and entertaining on the Philippine foodscape.

After an introduction detailing the Maya Kitchen link, it starts with "questions to ask before starting out," such as "Who are the people I want to serve?" Do I have enough capital? Then come pointers on getting started, on catering services, on contracts. A list of equipment necessary for serving 50-100 people, points for planning an event, capital investment, principles of menu planning and presentation, costing, types of table service follow, providing a list of everything one should or wish to know about the business.

Some 40 pages of menus and presentations follow, given such names by Lisa as: Teddy Bear Birthday Party; Garden Spring Wedding; Valentine Dinner with Dear Friends; Luau: Polynesian Splendor; Christening Celebration; Safari Cocktail Gathering; Asian Evening with Dancing Butterflies; Rhapsody in Blue and Gold (formal sit-down dinner); Afternoon Tea Party by the Pool; Country Filipino Breakfast Extravaganza; Christmas Noche Buena Brilliance; Millennium Magic.

These are Lisa Alvendia's food expressions and interpretations, and the folio of full-color photographs gives visual support. They are filled with flowers, silverware, porcelain, vases, wood and woven ware, lace and linen, swags and drapes, balloons, ferns—generally on the opulent side. Presumably, they are her experience and her predilections, her personal style. Presumably, if your own catering is different in tone and purpose—a gathering of academic colleagues, for example, or a Filipino diplomatic dinner in a foreign country, or an encounter of musicians, or artists, or food experts—the food would be adapted to your guests and purpose, the accessories and settings to your personal taste.

Memorable to me, for example, are such dinners as: an Asian meal served on Thai celadon with bronze ware, a small Buddha and lotus flowers as centerpiece. Or a friend's plain fuchsia linen tablecloth, with her Baccarat crystal and English bone china regnant, and all the ceiling pin lights directing attention to magnificent pieces in her art collection. And Sri and Roger Owens' pre-Oxford Symposium dinners at their Wimbledon house, with the buffet starting in Sri's comfortable and fragrant kitchen, and with food experts exchanging experiences of food around the world.

Thus Lisa Alvendia opens the door; you in your catering business, or your occasions of hosting, can then adapt it to your lifestyle and your needs.

Tried-and-true recipes

More than 100 pages are devoted to tried-and-true recipes, from grilled mini-bun burgers to roast beef; from crunchy chicken casserole to espresso tiramisu. Even the Filipino breakfast repertoire, which most households easily and constantly assemble, is detailed: smoked boneless *bangus tinapa à la pobre*; spicy sardines in oil; *arroz caldo* and fish balls; pork *tocino*; beef *tapa*, corned beef smothered with onions; *longganisa*, garlic rice with *tuyo* flakes; baked *monay* boats with *kesong puti*; grilled *mini pan de sal* with crisp chicken *adobo* chips; dollar-size *bibingka*.

The back of the book may well be the most helpful for both amateur and professional caterers: instructions on table setting with relevant sketches (e.g. napkin-folding); standards of table service. Especially interesting both for their experience and human encoun-

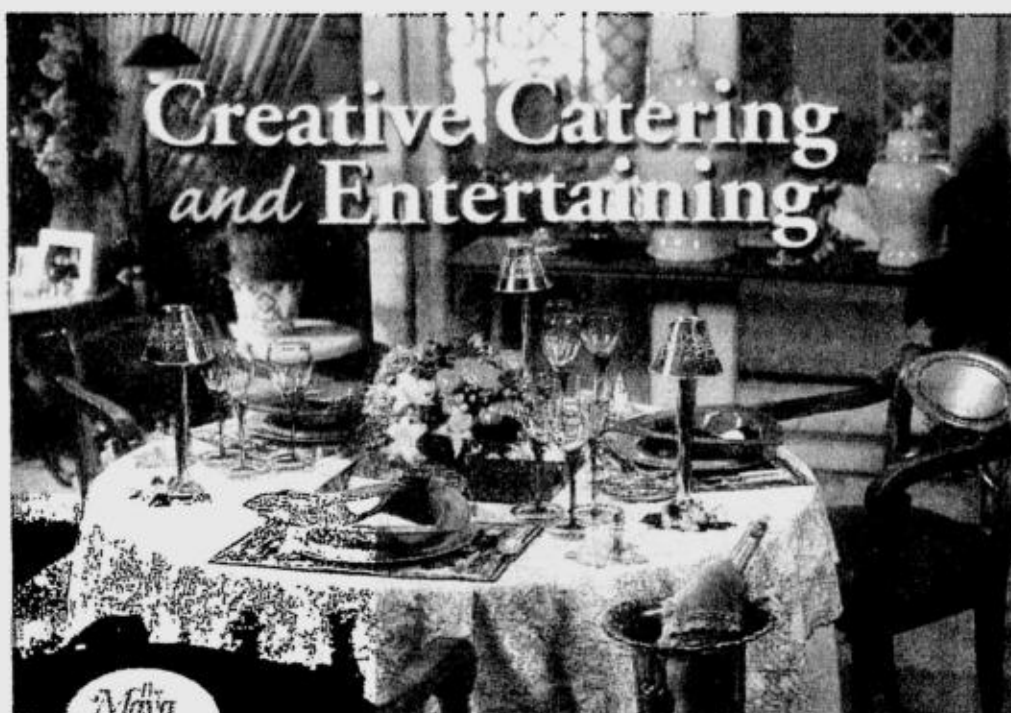
ters are vignettes from top caterers: Glenda Barretto, whom I consider queen of this world; Conrad Calalang and daughter Vanna Calalang-Severino; Margarita Fores; Milie Reyes; and Lynn Sunico.

The final directory of suppliers will probably wear out faster than any other part of the book. Here one finds sources for everything from *bagong alamang* to *dulong*, *suman* to *sinigang*; restaurants to products. The book ends with conversion tables and a glossary.

It is in general a careful book, although the usual devilish typos creep in (e.g. *queso* is never spelled with a z, in any language). It has undeniable value as a professional manual, delivered with enthusiasm and delight. Lisa Alvendia enjoyed writing her book—indeed her life, and each of us may find in it something to learn, to emulate and to enjoy.



ALVENDIA



Lisa J. Alvendia

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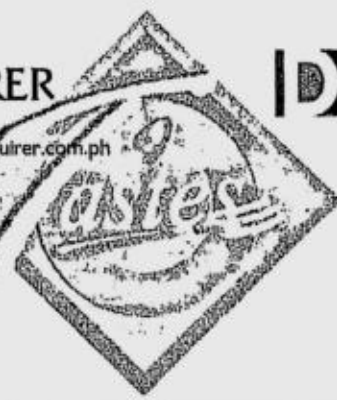
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LIFESTYLE



TOKYO TONKATSU. Good-for-two Sumo meal

So Nippon-nice they named it twice

By Cathy Babao Guballa

BACK in 1985, the original concept by trend-setter Virgie Ramos for Tokyo Tokyo was a shop within a shop that could keep Dads occupied while Moms and daughters checked out the latest Sanrio items at Gift Gate.

"It was the very first Japanese fast-food-style restaurant," recalls Shiela Ramos, marketing manager of Tokyo Tokyo. It made Japanese food affordable for the greatest number of people. The very first outlet opened in the Quad Carpark with a big to-do, headlined no less by the very young and very hot Janice de Belen and the popular DJ John Robinson.

Fast-forward 17 years and Tokyo Tokyo is still synonymous with good and reasonably priced Japanese food served amidst hip and cozy interiors. The Japanese-inspired monodrian, the photo wall and the red and black logo are the unique features that continue to attract students and yuppies on weekdays and families on weekends.

Tokyo Tokyo, which has declared independence from Gift Gate stores (although it may very well still be a protectorate, Ivan being Virgie Ramos' son) is now run by the trio of Ivan, who handles finances; Shiela, who takes care of sales and marketing; and good friend John Amante, a chef schooled at the tony Le Roches in Switzerland who is general manager.

What sets the chain apart from the growing competition? "We provide the restaurant-feel with the variety at very affordable prices. It's harder to maintain but I guess that's what gives us the competitive advantage," says Shiela.

The food at Tokyo Tokyo is tasty and filling. "The Sumo meals are our top-sellers," says Amante, who oversees the commissary and day-to-day operations of all 19 Tokyo Tokyo outlets throughout Metro Manila.

From being a food shop within a gift shop, Tokyo Tokyo is now a chain of 19 bright and bold outlets that serve sumo-sized meals at bonsai prices

Composed of a sizable portion of a main course—your choice of mixed tempura, beef misono, pork tonkatsu, or squid ika fry, all the rice that one can eat and two glasses of red iced teas, it is reasonably priced P129. In these hard times, one can easily see why this is such a winner among men with hefty appetites, students sharing a meal and large families on weekends who order the Sumo meals and share it "picnic" style.

The tempura is an all-time favorite among kids and Amante relates how amused he is whenever he hears stories of parents who start to groan when their children drag them on weekends for some "Tokyo Tokyo tempura" (mixed at P79 per order and shrimp at P109 per order)—too bad for the parents but good for the business. Its yummy potato balls (P29 per order) and red iced tea (P30 for a bottle) continue to be a merienda favorite among the students.

Amante says that there is also a growing merienda crowd between the lunch and dinner crowd. Yakisoba (P49/order) is a top-seller among students. For health-conscious diners, there are misono meals as well—take

SO/p.D3

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Justin Timberlake, Norman Mailer, Carol Channing, Nolan Ryan
Happy Birthday: You will be disciplined and hard working this year and therefore you should be able to accomplish what you set out to do. You'll be emotional, giving, understanding and admired by others. Your heart is in the right place. Your numbers are 12, 18, 26, 35, 42, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Join forces in order to make changes to your work place that will make it more pleasing for all of you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will have lots of energy and you should plan a full day of activities. Plan outings with children or friends that you enjoy. Look into long-term investments that have a high turnover.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If you stick to what you know and what you feel is important you will do just fine. Go about your business and avoid those individuals who are unpredictable.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will get along well with friends so be sure to plan something that will allow you to spend time with them. Don't get all upset with delays.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Focus on your work and don't take time out to procrastinate. If you are precise and you work hard you will accomplish what you set out to do.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may be feeling a bit emotional today especially when dealing with someone you love. Try to be practical even if it is difficult.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Use your head today and don't let anyone lead you in a direction that may not be in your best interest. Physical outlets will help you to feel less stressed regardless of the problems you are facing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You should get involved in a group that you feel can make a difference. Your desire to do something good for mankind will enhance your popularity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You must stop embellishing the truth. You may like to add color to your conversation but don't do it at the expense of others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Communication will lead to all sorts of interesting opportunities. Business ventures look good.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may want to keep your thoughts to yourself today. Take time to listen to the complaints of others and it will give you a clearer perception of your own position.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't use emotional blackmail in order to get your own way. You need to compromise in order to feel good about yourself and your decisions.

Birthday Baby: You have high ethical values, especially when it comes to partnerships. You are easygoing and get along well with almost everyone. You attract friends who can complement your traits.

A. LIPIN

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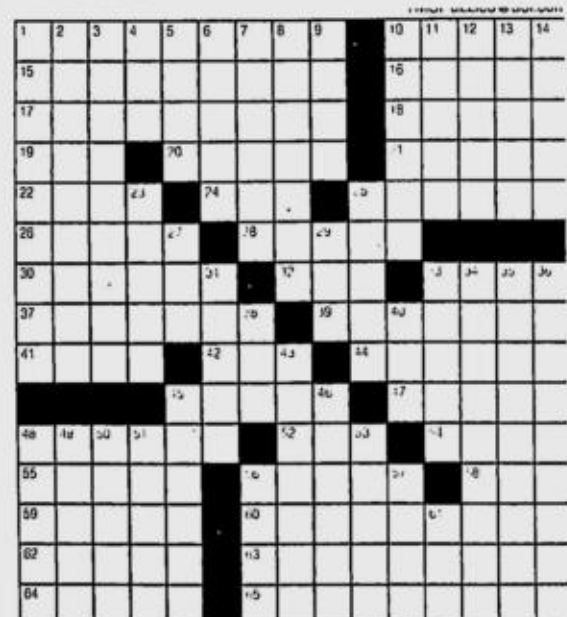
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BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Harpsichordist Alessandro
 - 10 Supporting framework
 - 15 Pleasing combinations of elements
 - 16 Salon dye
 - 17 Sincerely
 - 18 "St. Fire"
 - 19 School grp.
 - 20 Soils
 - 21 Has on
 - 22 Medieval weapon
 - 24 Before to the Bard
 - 25 Minibus
 - 26 Cancel
 - 28 Ball's partner
 - 29 Neatens
 - 32 D.C. bigwig
 - 33 Encircle with a belt
 - 37 One voted in
 - 39 Satellite of Uranus
 - 41 Hr. with a shrink
 - 42 South African golfer Ernie
 - 44 California's Sea
 - 45 Overcast and clear, e.g.
 - 47 Bullets
 - 48 Slow-movers
 - 52 Grp. of Agassi
 - 54 Male parent
 - 55 No-no
 - 56 Maui bye-bye
 - 58 Greek letter
 - 59 Calling into play
 - 60 Preserves
 - 62 Gymnast Comaneci
 - 63 Disturb
 - 64 Work in the grain fields
 - 65 City on the Rapagon River
- DOWN**
- 1 Fellow sailors
 - 2 Smooth, musically
 - 3 Three-digit numbers
 - 4 Sandhurst sch.
 - 5 "Hawaii Five-O" star Jack
 - 6 "Tomorrow" musical
 - 7 del Fuego
 - 8 Examiners
 - 9 Suffix for followers
 - 10 Michael Jackson musical
 - 11 Find a new tenant for a flat
 - 12 Cause to lose nerve
 - 13 Saw wood in bed
 - 14 Smart-alecky
 - 15 Idle and Ambler
 - 25 Singer Joplin
 - 27 Hanol holiday
 - 29 Profit
 - 31 Is on a quest
 - 33 Causes rancor
 - 34 Perceptive impression
 - 35 Albuquerque's river
 - 36 Ballerinas
 - 38 Actor Wallach
 - 40 Isl. of Australia
 - 43 Ocean passage
 - 45 Catch phrase
 - 46 Seemingly indifferent people
 - 48 Wounded by a wasp
 - 49 Twangy
 - 50 Put up with
 - 51 Ancient Greek colony
 - 53 Penh, Cambodia
 - 56 Surrounded by
 - 57 Sphere starter?
 - 61 Pierre's friend



By Ed Voile
 Gillette, WY

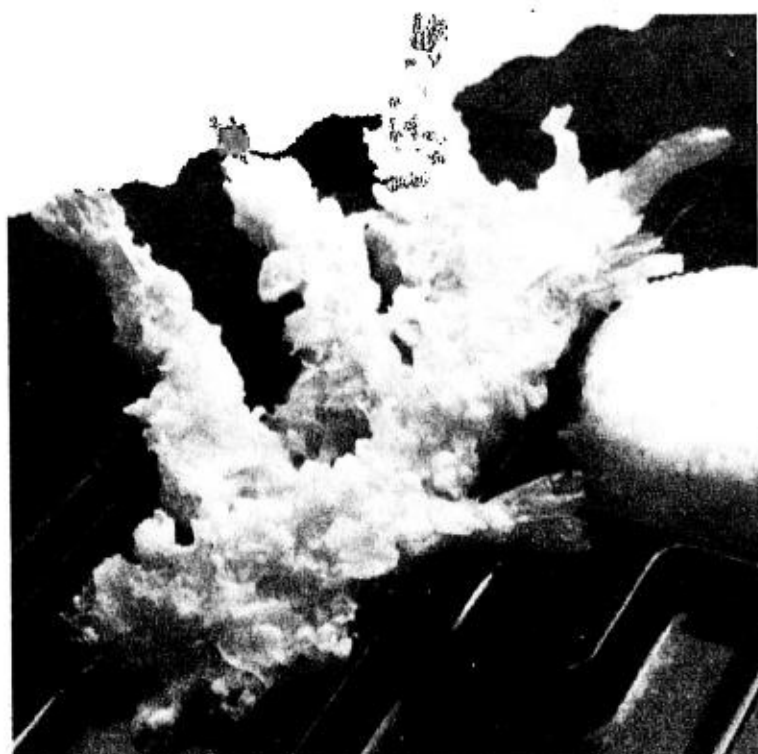
12/15/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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12/15/01



KIDS (and adults, too) love Tokyo Tokyo Tempura.



SUSHI selection

So Nippon-nice they named it twice

From page D1

SHIELA Ramos and John Amante at the Shangri-La Plaza branch

a pick from squid, beef, pork and tuna all priced at P89 per order. To end the meal there is either coffee or strawberry jelly priced at P35 per order.

Close attention

"We pay close attention to our food," Amante stresses. In 1985 the executive chef at Tokyo Tokyo was Kamura San, who remains a resident of the country to this day and now owns several small Japanese restaurants. Ivan, Shiela and John continue to see him once in a while to brainstorm or just catch up. His assistant, Ambrosio Jaurige, or Chef Ambo as he is more popularly known, has taken over his post and takes care of the food that is served daily at Tokyo Tokyo outlets. Together with John, they do quality control and once in a while add something new on the menu. For instance, they plan to repackage and reintroduce the sushi line come March.

Ivan, Shiela and John are reflective of what Tokyo Tokyo is all about—young, energetic and innovative. They seem to be having a great deal of fun running this restaurant whose dishes two generations of followers have continued to enjoy. Anyone who has had a bite of their tasty and affordable meals will say "Hail!" to that.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph



ORIENTAL STYLE RICE & NOODLE IN A BOX & MORE - PART II

Due to insistent public demand and because of its successful turnout, the Maya Kitchen presents another class on Oriental style rice and noodles in a box and more classes for the love month of February. Enrol now and have a feast of rice varieties and recipes and other Valentine special courses. Also get some wonderful tips on money making ventures from Maya Kitchen. This is your second chance, so grab the opportunities now!

Oriental Style Rice in a Box: Feb. 2 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Homemade Native Longanisa in Garlic Rice, Tocino Pineapple Fried Rice, Japanese Paella, Cantonese Fried Noodles, Seafood Medley in Emerald Rice, Honey Ginger Chicken in Kasubha Rice, Sweet and Sour Pork Rice. Bonus: Laing Rice and Spaghetti - including costing and sourcing. P600.

Baking with Institutional Mixes: Feb. 2 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Assorted Brownies (Black Forest, Apple Chunk, Rocky Road), Pineapple Carrot Cake, Choco-Banana Loaf, Chocolate Muffins with Fudge Frosting, Mango Samur, Butterscotch Squares and Chocolate Crinkles. Bonus: Chocolate Rhumballs. P500.

Japanese Cooking: Feb. 9 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Miso Soup, Tempura, Sukiyaki, Kamameshi and 7 kinds of Sushi preparations. P800.

Chocolate Class: Feb. 9 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Basic Chocolate Tempering and moulding, Fruit and Cream Timbale, Chocolate Lollipops, Valentine Cookie, Fudge-filled Chocolate, Bailey's Truffles, Coffee Cream Mouse and Meringue. P700.

Restaurant Operations: Feb. 16 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Kitchen organization, cycle menu planning, costing, cost control, purchasing, labor, payroll, inventory, etc. Proven techniques on profitable service operations with free lunch. P1,500.

Bakery & Bakeshop: Feb. 23 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Commercial methods used in preparing breads, pies and cakes including costing, production batching with actual hands-on. P1,500.

CERTIFICATE COURSES WITH HANDS - ON:

Cooking II (Comprehensive Cooking) For Career Cooks: Feb. 6 - 8 or 20 - 22 (W-F) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Coverage: menu planning, international standard techniques of preparing stocks, soups, sauces, dressings, salads, main dishes, homemade cold cuts, etc., applicable to 1001 recipes including plate and platter presentation. Free lunch. P2,500.

Basic Baking: Feb. 6 - 8 or 20 - 22 (W-F) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Hands-on techniques in preparing basic pie crust, different types of cakes, quick bread, yeast breads and more. P2,000.

Cake Decoration: Feb. 16 & 23 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Lecture-workshop on fundamentals of cake decorating: coloring, designing, template, icing (boiled, butter, caramel, chocolate, sugar icing); basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flower making and bunching and motif. Free decorating tips. P2,000.

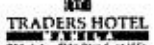
Cooking I (Basic Cooking) For Messman, Stewards and Beginners: Feb. 12 - 15 or Feb. 26 - Mar. 1 (T-F) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Basic food preparation, cooking methods for vegetables, pasta, meats and poultry dishes: Techniques of de-boning chicken and fish; Basic garnishing; Table setting and napkin folding; Actual preparation of popular Filipino and Oriental dishes. P2,200.

EVENING SESSIONS:

Catering: Feb. 26, 27, 28 (T-Th) 5:30 - 8 p.m. Portion Control, Costing, Inventory, Table Layout & Equipment Sourcing with actual preparation of popular catering dishes: Morcon, Galantina, Pork Asado, Soy Chicken, Roast Pork, Baked Macaroni, All-Meat Paella and special Gulaman dessert. P1,500.

Integrated Workshop on Waitering & Bartending: Feb. 26 - 28 (T-Th) 6 - 9 p.m. Coverage: Creative techniques for efficient table setting and attractive arrangement, napkin folding and skirting. Suggested selling techniques, order taking; Table setting, Setting up service station and checkpoint; Serving beverage, Bartending basics; and Cocktail mixing and garnish. P2,000.

For reservations and inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen at the 8th Floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City or call tel. 892-1185 or 892-5011 loc. 108; or e-mail us at mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph



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Belinda Pano
Lynn Sherman
Monique Wilson
Cynthia Alexander
Pinky Amador
Glecy Atienza
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ALL is bright and hip at Tokyo Tokyo.

PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

Behold the lamb

THIS coming February, Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), the national marketing arm of the Australian lamb industry, will hold a month-long Lamb Festival billed "Lamb is a Many Splendored Thing."

The chefs of over 20 participating hotels, restaurants and retail outlets will be creating special lamb dishes.

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riboflavin, lamb is a good source of essential daily iron and, when trimmed of all visible fat, lean lamb, which is low in cholesterol, has an average fat content of only 6.3 percent and surprisingly fewer calories than many foods including peanuts, toasted muesli and most cheese.

Among those joining MLA's "Lamb is a Many Splendored Thing" promo are: Aqua, Azurro, Hyatt Hotel, La Primavera, Mandarin Hotel, Via Mare, El Cirkulo, Blue Frog, Bianca's, Carpaccio's, Sala, Santi's, Peninsula Hotel, Raj, N, Gold Ranch, La Tienda, People's Palace, Café Havana, S&R, El Comedor, National Sports Grill and Mil Novecientos.



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ACTRESS Judy Ann Santos graces Yoshinoya's opening before gamely taking customers' orders.

Yoshinoya, which first entered the local food scene years ago, is back and raring to open four more outlets this year



BEEF bowl



CHICKEN bowl

Reopened to bowl you over

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Beto Johnson

Filipinos used to think that Japanese food is raw and expensive. But more and more Filipinos, especially those who have worked in Japan, know Yoshinoya.

"Our food is clean, tasty and, best of all, reasonably priced. Every meal is cooked-to-order to assure diners that food is served hot and fresh all the time," says Raffy Lazatin, marketing director of Century Pacific Group, one of the country's leading sardines-maker.

The company has collaborated with Yoshinoya D&C Ltd. and Mitsui & Co. Ltd. of Japan to form Yoshinoya Century Pacific.

The Japanese fast-food chain known for its hearty *gyudon* or beef and rice bowl dishes recently reopened a local outlet at the SM Southmall, its 997th store worldwide.

Rice preferred

Servings come in regular (P59) and large (P79) bowls. Aside from beef, famish mallers can also go for either the pork or the chicken bowl. Each serving comes with the restaurant's authentic teriyaki sauce, steamed veggies and, of course, piping hot rice. At P99 a bowl, the beef and chicken combo is ideal for people with big appetites. For a limited time, each order comes with a free glass of green iced tea.

"Consumer preference for rice figured prominently in a market research we did several months ago," says Lazatin. "The study also took into consideration affordability and portion sizes. There was no attempt to adjust the dishes to cater to Pinoy taste. We follow the

same Japanese-style of cooking, and that means no MSG and other artificial seasonings."

Yoshinoya's limited menu includes side dishes such as coleslaw and *kimchi*, and Filipino desserts such as *ube sago* and *halo-halo* cocktail sans ice. More authentic and Japanese-inspired dishes are in the pipeline. The restaurant, however, won't be offering diners Japanese food in bento boxes to reinforce its image of serving rice toppings in a bowl.

800 outlets

Yoshinoya's first restaurant opened in Nishimbashi fish market in Chuo Ward, Tokyo. More than a hundred years later, Yoshinoya is still serving its steaming rice bowls in over 800 outlets in Japan. There are close to a hundred Yoshinoya outlets in the United States and several outlets in Taiwan, China and Singapore.

Some Metro Manilans can probably still recall Yoshinoya's first foray into the country several years ago. For some reason, the partnership between Yoshinoya's previous Philippine representative and its two mother companies in Japan ended without a new one in place.

"Yoshinoya is like the McDonald's of Japan," says Lazatin. "We plan to open at least five Yoshinoya outlets within the year. A second one will soon open at Metropoint mall (corner of Edsa and Taft Avenue)." Filipinos crazy over sweet spaghetti and juicy hamburgers now have more options when it comes to fast food.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



PORK bowl

It whistles
BEFORE
you bathe.

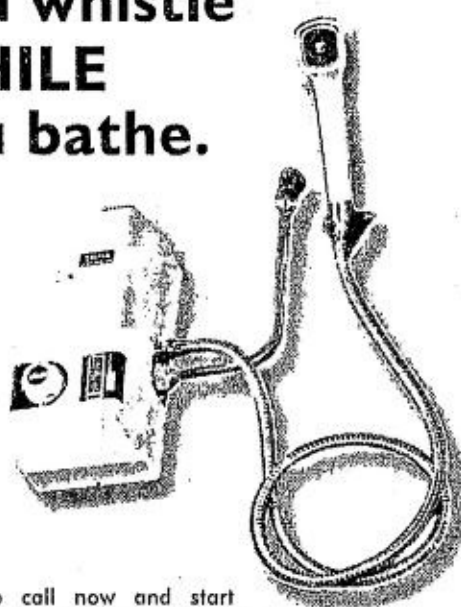


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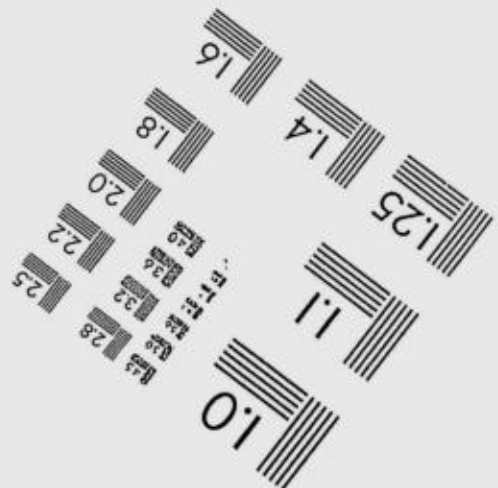
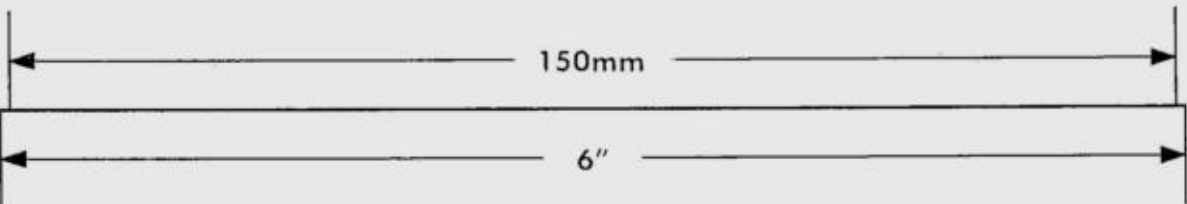
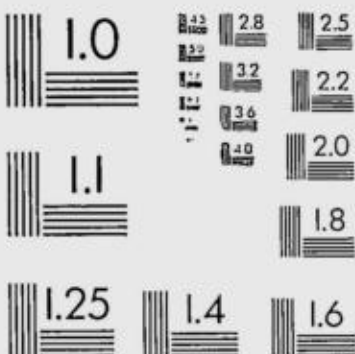
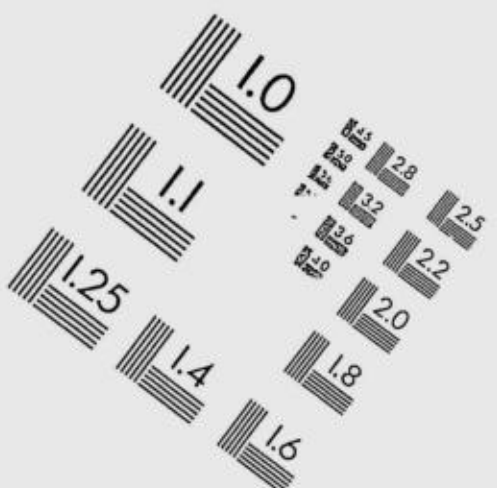
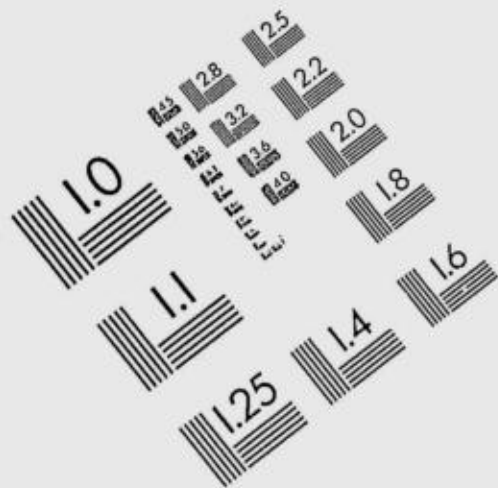
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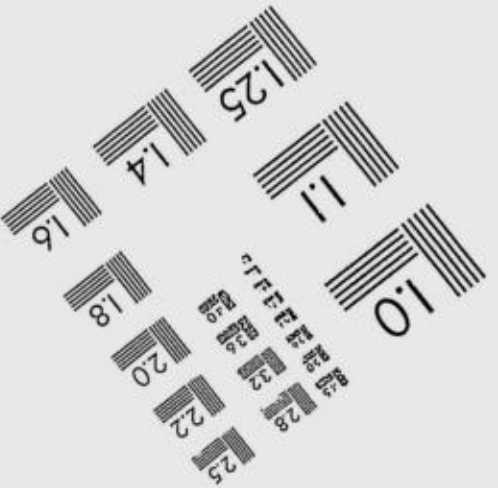
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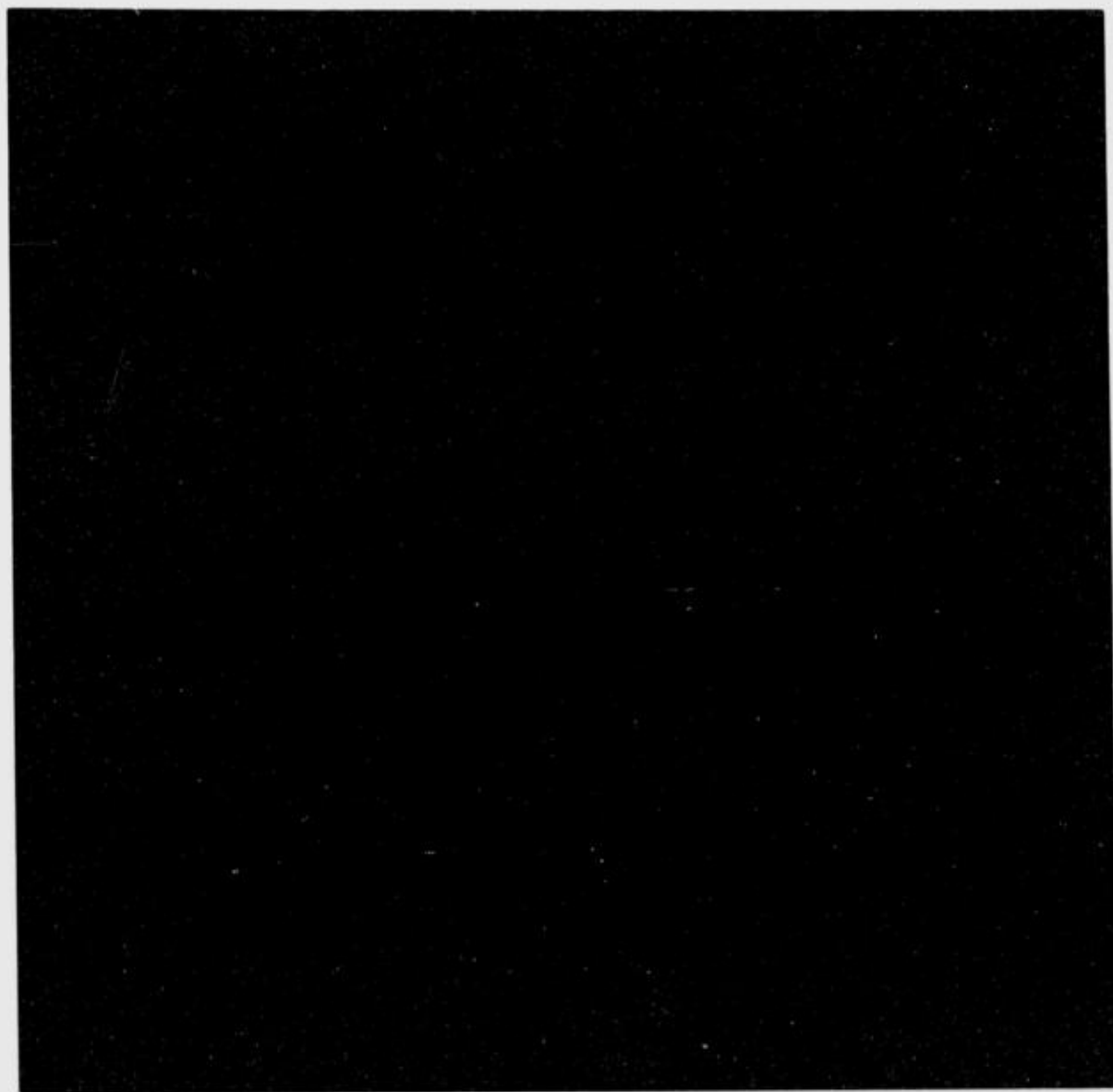
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START

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P.O. BOX 154, MANILA, PHILIPPINES

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

JULY
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2002

REEL

288

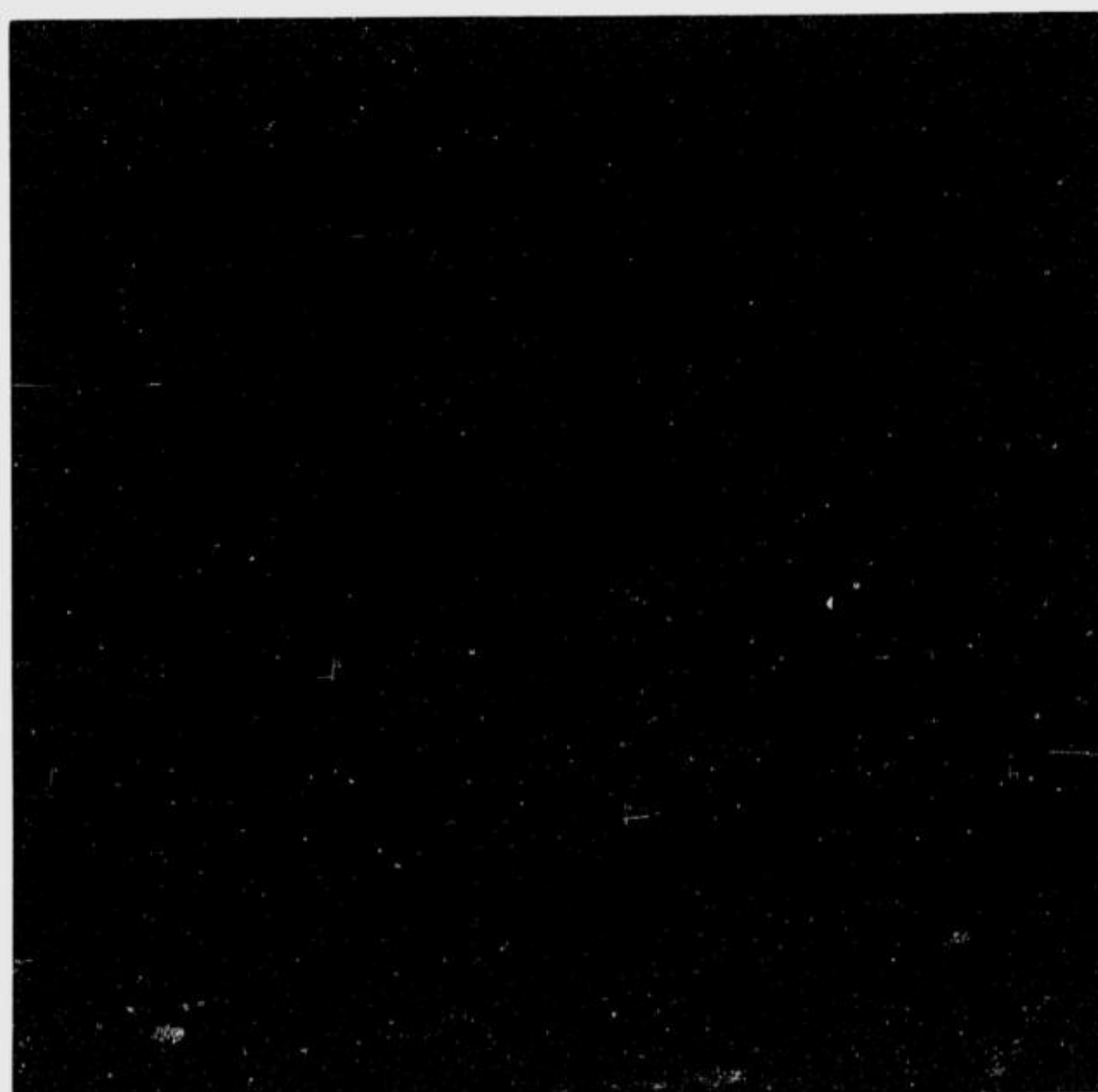
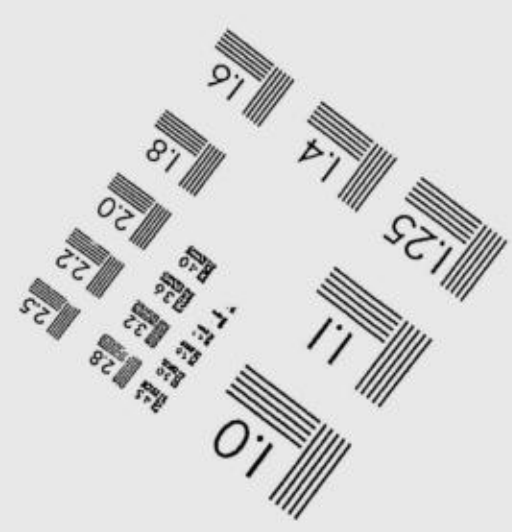
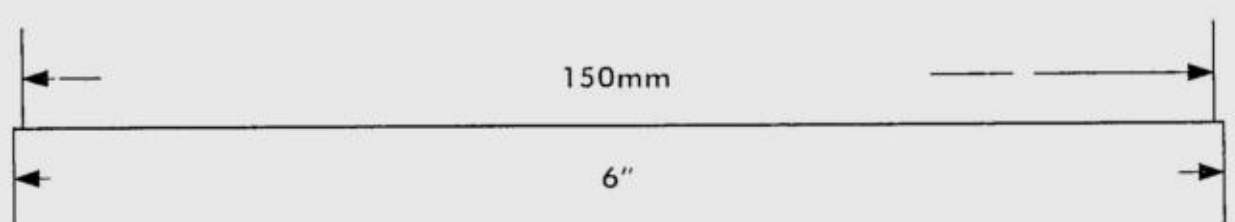
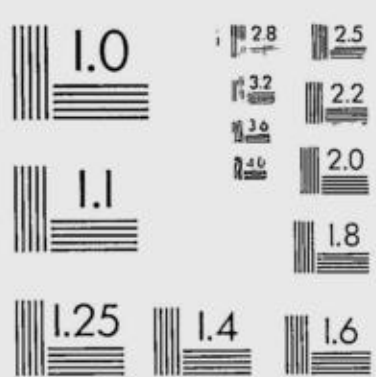
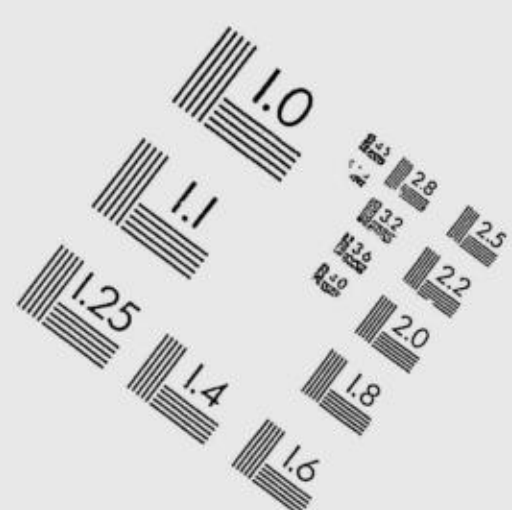
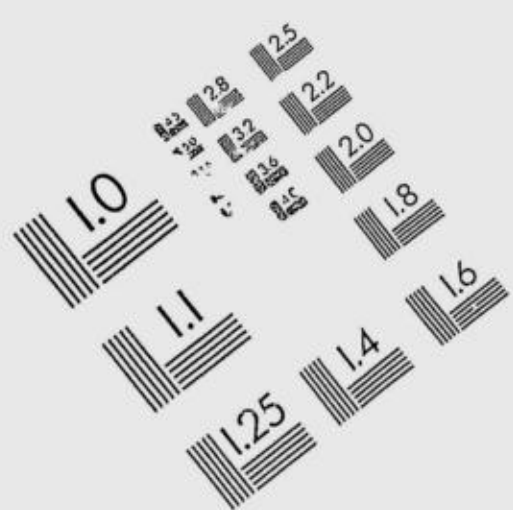


IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)



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